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AC The Allegan COUNTY NEWS
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Cheshire supervisor, trustee follow clerk resignation from board

By Gari Voss

The leadership of Cheshire Township in Allegan County has been extremely stable for years, but during the past year, the replacement of Donna Hetzel, an experienced clerk, brought a new clerk, Jodi Pinnell, and the expected uphill learning process. Then, as 2026 began, Supervisor Steve Revor decided to step down as of April 1, 2026. Beginning April 15th, Treasurer Ron Hale will hang up his computer and enjoy retirement.

The supervisor and, more recently, the treasurer positions have been posted. The township board must fill the positions within 45 days of when a resignation was approved. Those interested in being the Cheshire Township supervisor have submitted their resumes and will be interviewed and approved at an open meeting by trustees Ray Moored and Ken Horton, along with clerk Jodi Pinnell and treasurer Ron Hale. Since the treasurer resignation was just approved at the special March 31, 2026, meeting, those interviews will not be held until resumes are received.

For both of these positions, this is just an appointment. Anyone one chosen to fill these positions on a permanent basis will need to meet the deadlines required in the election process. That will include filing the proper paperwork for the primary election. Others may also be seeking the positions. The candidates who survive their party primary will move forward to the General Election in November. Each candidate will fulfill the original terms of Revor and Hale.

Cheshire Township has been under the leadership of Revor for 17 years. He has filled a variety of positions on boards including the Township Board as supervisor. Hale could not remember exactly when he agreed to serve on a committee, but it was back in the 70s. His terms as treasurer have taken him through a number of financial program changes.

As Supervisor Revor completed his final meeting on March 31st, he expressed his hope that communication will improve across the township and expressed that it will take some time to relax after donating 17 years to the township. Those who have attended meetings in person or via Zoom realize that there have been comments made by residents during the Public Comments that were not appropriate because they became personal jabs or demands rather than citing concerns or suggestions to improve living conditions in Cheshire Township. Lifelong resident Jim Garlock took time to thank Supervisor Revor for his years of service, and the things that had been accomplished under his leadership.

In a conversation with Treasurer Hale, he expressed that he looked forward to having an empty calendar to do things with family, friends, and hobbies.

Cheshire Township still struggles with ordinance problems, especially what might be considered "blight" but has been focused on extraneous vehicles and junk that brings unwanted vermin and disease. In addition, decisions need to be made regarding road improvements and finding the money to add pavement to the many miles of gravel roads while repairing paved township roads. Conversations need to be held with Allegan County Road Commission regarding primary roads and high traffic areas.

Eagle Lake is looking at a special assessment. Swan Lake wants to move forward with improvements that will reduce blue-green algae and any incidents of e-coli. The same concerns have been expressed by Duck Lake. The research data of the concerns have been shared, and possible remedies have been explored but require in-depth examination to determine next steps. Using grant funds, the Allegan Conservation District has conducted an examination of the Swan Creek Watershed that brought forth data indicating that ground water shows high levels of human elements rather than animal traces that some expected.

Other items on agendas over the past months have included establishing the Allegan County 2026 Eagle View Imagery partnership, short term rentals, dust control, the plowing of Schermerhorn Drive, the impact on the township financials when considering road improvements, and follow-up with the contractor that completed the improvements on the Town Hall kitchen.

Much ado about chickens

By Scott Sullivan Writer

Chickens Sunshine, Sugar, Cinnamon, Butter, Butter, Piper and Isabella still have Douglas homes thanks to owner Kathy Sarkisian's lawsuit, then settlement with agreement from the city.

The Douglas chicken movement took wing May 18, 2017 when 18 petitioners called for Douglas to allow backyard chickens and similar fowl.

"Allowing residents to keep a limited number of backyard chickens would be a socially and environmentally responsible move," Ronna, Lucy and Olive Alexander wrote the city eight days later.

Supporters noted cities across the country — including Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Grand Haven and Holland in Michigan alone — have begun allowing backyard chickens because of their "numerous benefits."

"These include laying fresh eggs, contributing to

see Chickens, Page A10

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INDEX

Classifieds B7
Puzzles / For The Record B4
Obituaries A7
Viewpoints A6
Community Events A4
Religion B8
Sports B1-B3

Wayland Appoints New Finance Director

By Joseph Schultz

On Monday night, the Wayland City Council agreed to hire Leah Kuipers as the city's new Financial Director/Deputy City Manager. Kuipers, who had been working in the financial department of Wayland Union Schools, replaces Kate Balfoort, who stepped down last month to take a position with the City of Kentwood.

Although Kuipers' start date with the city will be on April 13, she will still be working with Wayland Schools until the end of April. According to the Employment Agreement, the starting annual salary for the new Finance Director will be $99,000.

Allegan County Legal Assistance Center

Judge Margaret Zuzich Bakker presented to the council the work being done by the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center (ACLAC). Eighty-six Wayland city residents have been assisted in the past year in matters involving divorce, custody, personal protection orders, and parenting time.

ACLAC provides tools and resources to help people represent themselves in civil court matters. The ACLAC does not provide legal advice, or act as an attorney, but it does provide legal information free of charge.

Sheriff Frank Baker was also on hand, and told the council about how the ACLAC is a vital resource for law enforcement. Baker stated that when people call officers to their home at 2 am, the police want to help. Unfortunately, the police cannot give legal advice, but with the ACLAC, they have a resource that they can refer people to for the legal help they need.

City Clerk Amanda Rodriguez swears in Leah Kuipers as Financial Director

Judge Bakker and Sheriff Baker thanked the Wayland City Council for their support of the ACLAC.

Meals on Wheels

In the City Manager's report, Erik Wilson included an email from Allegan County Administrator Robert Sarro about the senior meals program. The email was in response to a representative from Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC) who presented concerns at the last council meeting about hot meals not being delivered to senior homes.

"Sadly, the County is observing significant misinformation being released by other parties," Sarro wrote in the email. "The County and Meals on Wheels (MOW) have amended their agreement to allow delivery to occur as little as one day a week if the client requests such and their assessment supports it, up to five days a week (every weekday, excluding holidays) with the option of a hot meal (heated in-home by the driver with the client's permission)."

Meals on Wheels of West Michigan started delivering the senior meals on March 11. Feedback from the deliveries, according to Sarro, has been positive, with many of the clients preferring fewer deliveries. The City Council took no action on this information.

Items Approved by the Council

A request from The Catz Den to rent the Wayland City Park for a Fall Crafts show was approved. The craft show will be on Saturday, September 26 from 7 am to 5 pm, with space for up to 50 vendors.

Also approved was a hard cap on city employee health care costs. The action was necessary to be in compliance with Public Act 152, which limits public employer contributions to medical benefit plans.

Finally, the council approved the auctioning of a standby generator that was installed in the public safety building in 1978. With the installation of a new standby generator last month, the old unit is no longer needed.

Editor's Note: Story courtesy of TownBroadcast

The Michigan Alpaca Fest returns to the Allegan County Fairgrounds on Sat., Apr. 18 and Sun., Apr. 19, 2026. Gates will be open to the public on Saturday from 9am-5pm and on Sunday from 9am-2pm. Visitors can watch the judicated events, speak with breeders and raisers, and visit the many vendor booths. Picture: G. Voss

Michigan Alpaca Fest returns to Allegan

By Gari Voss

The Allegan County Fairgrounds, 150 Fair Drive, will fill with Alpaca lovers, fiber enthusiasts, and groups on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19, 2026. The event will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The Michigan Alpaca Fest is a premier alpaca show featuring top-quality alpacas from across the region that will compete in three exciting events: the Michigan Alpaca Fest Halter Show, the Mi-Mitten Meltdown, and the Walking Fleece Competition. These competitions highlight excellence in alpaca conformation, fleece quality, and overall presentation.

Between judicated events, visitors will have the opportunity to see hundreds of beautiful alpacas up close while learning more about alpaca farming, fiber production, and the growing alpaca industry in Michigan and the Midwest.

Along with the competition evaluating the alpacas' beautiful qualities, the barn will feature vendors with wonderful fiber creations. The Artisan Fair is a great place to view interesting fiber products made by talented vendors and learn new ways to use fleece. Shoppers can browse the Alpaca apparel and finished products, fiber, yarn, and crafting supplies, farm and livestock services, gift and boutique merchandise, and agricultural equipment and business services.

The Alpaca Fest takes time to highlight the youth who are learning to handle and care for the alpaca. The Youth Show allows young exhibitors to demonstrate their skills in taking their animals through an obstacle course, evaluating their performance, and demonstrating their showmanship skills. The most coveted event is the Youth Costume Class. At noon on Saturday, the audience will applaud the creativity of the performers as they match human and animal apparel to impress the judges.

The Michigan Alpaca Fest is designed to be educational and family-friendly. Visitors can watch the alpacas in the show ring and meet the breeders and exhibitors. When learning about how to care for the alpaca and the differences in fiber, some enthusiasts take their knowledge to the vendor stalls when examining products or purchasing yarn.

The 28th Michigan International Alpaca Fest is the longest running alpaca show in the United States. Though a couple years were taken off for COVID, the Alpaca Fest has returned as the Michigan Alpaca Fest and offers a Double Show. The Fest includes Halter Classes, Small Breeder Classes, Bred and Owned Classes, Walking Fleece Classes, Walking Fleece Classes, and Production Classes.

When planning a visit to the Allegan County Fairground, check the schedule as the doors open to the public on Saturday at 9am along with vendor booths. 12-12:30pm is lunch and the Youth Costume Class. The public will be asked to leave at 5pm. On Sunday, the public can return at 9am and everything closes to the public at 2pm. They request that no dogs be brought to the barns as some of the alpaca are not accustomed to animals they do not know.

The organizers believe that whether a person is curious about alpaca ownership, passionate about fiber arts, or simply looking for a unique weekend outing, Michigan Alpaca Fest offers something for everyone. For event updates and additional information, visit http://www.mialpacafest.com

Second Housing Summit sponsored by ACCF

By Gari Voss

Housing has been identified as a major concern across Allegan County. To gather those who can assist in addressing the shortage, the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) hosts the Housing Summit. The 2026 Summit will be held on May 8th from 8am-2pm at the Griswold Auditorium, 401 Hubbard St., in Allegan.

Municipal leaders, developers, builders, and advocates for housing are invited to attend the Summit. The program will consist of four short sessions designed to inform and encourage local elected leaders, housing advocates and municipal staff to seek ways to address and alleviate the 6,200-unit shortage of housing that exists in the county.

ACCF's Community Impact Officer Chris Kleinjans says this year's event "is building off last year's discussion and will include presentations that highlight how local units of government have created impactful discussions and movement in housing from city, township and county perspectives."

The Housing Summit is constructed to assist new-comers and experts in understanding how housing development works. The desire is to learn about and engage in addressing a very complicated issue. Time will be scheduled for networking so community members can learn from each other.

"Beginning the discussion and taking the first steps around creating housing can be daunting," Kleinjans continued. "ACCF has dedicated resources to help convene and assist everyone involved in this discussion across the county. This year's summit is a discussion of what those first steps and where community discussions can lead."

The presenters are local professionals working in the housing industry. Lunch will be served. A registration link for the event can be found on the Allegan County Community Foundation website, https://alleganfoundation.org/.

Dorr Elementary recognized for strides in literacy

By Elizabeth Stein & Gari Voss

According to the Michigan literacy dashboard, more than 60% of Michigan third grade students struggle with reading and are not reading at grade level. Nationally, Michigan ranks near the bottom for fourth-grade reading proficiency. To help remedy this, TalentFirst launched the Literacy Leadership Recognition Program. The CEO Team included the Literacy Leadership Awards with their broader regional commitment to increase third grade English Language Arts proficiency by 5% over a three years period. This is their second year for recognizing schools that are demonstrating growth.

"Dorr Elementary has been selected as one of just six schools for TalentFirst's 2026 Literacy Leadership Recognition Program!" shared Communication Specialist Elizabeth Stein of Wayland Union Public Schools. "This honor celebrates the school's commitment to implementing research-based literacy practices and achieving strong reading proficiency and growth on the 3rd-grade M-STEP assessment."

The Literacy Leadership Awards are given by TalentFirst CEO Council members and their partners who believe that literacy is the basic foundation of a vibrant workforce and a strong community. The goal is to lift up programs that are working.

Therefore, in order to receive the Literacy Leadership Award, a school must meet seven criteria. First, there must be strong M-STEP reading performance and/or growth when compared to peer schools with similar economic profiles. There must be an implementation of the Literacy Essentials framework. Teaching and learning practices must show ongoing professional learning that is grounded in the science of reading.

The schools selected must have dedicated literacy coaching to ensure that there is a high-quality curriculum with systematic phonics instruction. Add the use of ongoing formative assessments that guide instruction, and the early literacy goals of the school improvement plan can be reached.

Michigan Representative Rachelle Smit (right) celebrated with members of TalentFirst, Wayland Union Public Schools and Dorr Elementary School upon their receiving a TalentFirst 2026 Literacy Leadership Recognition Program award. Pictured with the students: Kevin Stotts, President of TalentFirst; Tim Reeves, Superintendent of Wayland Union Schools; Andrew Augustin, Principal of Dorr Elementary; and Rachelle Smit, State Representative. Photo: courtesy of Elizabeth Stein.

"This honor celebrates the school's commitment to implementing research-based literacy practices and achieving strong reading proficiency and growth on the 3rd-grade M-STEP assessment," stated Stein.

"To celebrate, representatives from TalentFirst and State Representative Rachelle Smit joined staff and students for a school-wide assembly on Friday, March 27, 2026," explained Stein. "Dorr Elementary was presented with a $1,000 check to support their continued literacy efforts, and every student enjoyed a celebratory cookie."

Stein stressed, "We are so proud of the dedication that our staff and students show each day to build strong readers. What a perfect way to wrap up Reading Month!"

According to TalentFirst, other schools in West Michigan that demonstrated strong reading outcomes, meaningful growth, and disciplined use of evidence-based instruction aligned with the science of reading were: Lakeview Elementary (Lakeview Community), Holmes Elementary (Spring Lake Public), Murray Lake Elementary (Lowell Area), Paris Ridge Elementary (Caledonia Community), and Zinzer Elementary (Kenowa Hills Public).

The TalentFirst CEO team believes that these schools show that improvement is achievable—and scalable.

TalentFirst, Grand Rapids, is comprised of 100 CEOs from the West Michigan region of 13 counties. The collaborative examines data to determine gaps, then evaluates leading practices and advocates for the implementation of practices that will improve employment in the region. The focus on literacy is foundational to their mission to strengthen West Michigan's long-term talent pipeline.

Police say missing Hopkins juvenile is located

By John Raffel Correspondent

A 13 year old juvenile, Zohe Pierce was located Monday in Wayland City around 7 p.m. by Allegan County Deputies with the assistance of multiple callers calling Allegan Central Dispatch with updated information.

A press release had been issued a few days earlier that Pierce was missing.

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the citizens of Wayland City, Dorr Twp and Hopkins Twp for the updated information to locate Zohe.

Allegan County Sheriff's Office was also assisted by Gun Lake Tribal Police Department, Wayland City Police Department and Michigan State Police.

Allegan begins Spring spruce up

By Gari Voss

It has been a cold, snowy winter, and this has taken a toll on the flora around the City of Allegan and beyond. Residents have already begun to rake or blow leaves and brush to the curb. As this process continues, the City of Allegan has shared information on how best to dispose of unwanted brush and trash from yards and homes.

Beginning April 6 and ending May 4, 2026, City of Allegan residents may place leaves and brush at the street edge for pick up. After May 4, residents are encouraged to drop off yard waste and brush at the Department of Public Works facility at 691 Airway Drive.

For those who realize that Airway Drive is receiving a "facelift", Director of Public Works Jeff Morrie shared, "Airway Drive will be open to thru traffic for this coming cleanup starting on Saturday of this week (April 6th). To encounter the least amount of construction on the road, I would suggest that people take Lowe Street then turn left onto Airway Drive."

Brush and Leaves

That said, until May 4th, those using the curb pick-up must place brush and leaf piles into separate piles or in bags.

Leaf piles need to be within 3 feet of the edge of the road for the vacuums to reach. Leaf piles cannot be placed near utility poles, guy-wires, hydrants, mailboxes, or other obstructions. Please, make sure that leaf piles do not block storm drains.

Brush must not exceed 4 inches in diameter and must be from the property owner's regular trimming and yard clean up, not from a contracted tree removal service. Brush shall not contain trash, vines, building materials, stumps, or roots.

On Monday of each week until May 4th, the City will begin pickup on the main streets and then move onto the side streets throughout the week.

Waste & Recycling

The City of Allegan provides City residents with a dumpster for waste and recycling during Spring Spruce Up. This is located at the Public Works facility at 691 Airway Drive. You must prove you are a city resident prior to disposing of any item. Dumpsters will be available from 8:00am to 3:00pm on Saturday, April 11, 7:00am to 2:30pm on Monday, April 13 - Friday, April 17, and 8:00am to 3:00pm Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Do NOT Throw

Residents may NOT throw the following items into the provided dumpsters: household garbage, asphalt, roofing shingles, hazardous household waste, leftover paint, flammables, cement, brick, or stone.

For additional information, please contact the City of Allegan at 269.673.5511 or visit cityofallegan.org.

Wayland Twp. hearing on solar farm project postponed

By David Young

The Wayland Township Planning Commission's public hearing Wednesday on Blazing Star Solar LLC's application for a special use permit has been called off.

Wayland Township Trustee Matt Miner, a member of the Planning Commission, told colleagues Monday night that the hearing was postponed because of improper noticing. Blazing Star has plans to build what is commonly referred to as a solar farm.on property current zoned agricultural.

However, the Planning Commission plans to have its regular meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. to conduct business.

In other business at the regular meeting Monday evening, the Township Board:

• Was told by Treasurer Sue Kamyszek that roughly only half of the township's residents are taking advantage of the $50 yearly fee for the curbside recycling program. She said only 674 households are using the receptacles at their homes, out of more than 1,300 residences that are eligible. Trustee Matt Miner lamented, "Those who don't use it still have pay for it."

• Signed a new and revised agreement with the Allegan County Imagery Partnership for $5,490, or $915 per years for six years. The original contract included the wrong numbers.

• Noted that the county right now is experiencing flood or near flood conditions on local lakes and rivers. During a visit from Allegan County Drain Commissioner Chris Machiela, Supervisor Roger VanVolkinburg said this area already has exceeded the average precipitation for an entire year. Cemetery Sexton Micah Kuhtic said the rainstorms have resulted in "We've been picking up a lot of sticks lately (in the cemetery)."

• Learned from Kamyszek that she was elected treasurer of the Wayland Area Emergency Services Board, Steve Deer of Leighton Township was elected chairman and Mike DeWeerd of Wayland secretary.

• Held a discussion about Kuhtic getting the ball rolling on getting costs for replacing three doors at the township hall.

Editor's Note: Story is courtesy of TownBroadcast

Community Events

Event information can be sent to:
wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Wed., Apr. 8, 2026: Deadline to register for Lifeline Gala
Register for the Thurs., April 23rd Gala by contacting 269 673-3791, emailing development@safeharborcac.org. or visiting www.safeharborcac.org/events.

Wed., Apr. 8, 2026, 11am-2pm: House of the Rising Song Café. Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan. Live music and lunch

Fri., Apr. 10, 2026: Wear Blue Day. For Building awareness of Child Abuse Prevention.

Fri., Apr. 10, 2026, 11am: Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary Library Fun. Allegan District Library

Apr. 13 – 26, 2026: Allegan Co. Photo Contest Submissions. Allegan County Community Foundation will again accept submissions for the online photo contest.

Now – Apr. 22, 2026: Camp Kidwell Spring Flower Sale. Go to https://givebutter.com/camp-kidwell-spring-flowers-2026. Flowers can be picked up May 7-9 at Chestnut Farms.

CURRENT EVENTS

Tues., Apr. 7, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
2pm: StarLab Planetarium – The Curious Kids Museum will take participants on a journey through outer space in their inflatable StarLab. All ages can register at 269 673-4625.

Wed., Apr. 8, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
11am: Teen Cookies & Canvas – 6-12 grades can register at 269 673-4625 then paint monarch butterfly.
2pm: Recess for Adults with the Arc of Allegan – Enjoy activities with individuals supported by the Arc.

Wed., Apr. 8, 2026, 11am-2pm: House of the Rising Song Café
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Grab your instrument and join the group or just come and listen and have lunch.

Thurs., Apr. 9, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories, songs, and activities.
3:30pm: Unicorns & Shining Knights Party – It's National Unicorn Day. Drop in, magic is in the air.

Fri., Apr. 10, 2026: Wear Blue Day
For Building awareness of Child Abuse Prevention.

Fri., Apr. 10 – Sun. 12, 2026: Spring Weekend Camp
Camp Kidwell 1st St. Bloomingdale
Take time to relax and have fun. Register at https://www.campkidwell.org/.

Fri., Apr. 10, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
11am: Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary – Get a first-hand experience and learn about reptile friends. Register at 269 673-4625.
3pm: Building Blocks of Financial Literacy Initiative & Storytime – Ages 3-5 can learn how many works through stories.

Fri., Apr. 10, 2026, 7pm: Kevin Henry
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy food, friends and music. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Sun., Apr. 12, 2026, 7pm: Bargo
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy food, friends and a take on Bingo. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Apr. 13 – 26, 2026: Allegan Co. Photo Contest Submissions
Allegan County Community Foundation will again accept submissions for the online photo contest.

Mon., Apr. 13, 2026, 10am: Splish, Splash, Stories @ AAC
Allegan Aquatic Center Allegan High School M-89 N
Bring a bathing suit and towel and enjoy silly takes and songs then splash with your family. Register at 269-673-7002 ext. 5504, or visit their website at ard.recdesk.com.

Mon., Apr. 13, 2026, 5:30-6:30pm: Up Close& Wild at Pullman PHP
PHP Building 56th St. Pullman
Drop in to interact with the animals either during the program or at the end. Guardians stay with the class. Register through the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC).

Tues., Apr. 14, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
6:30pm: Book Club – Drop in and enjoy the conversation around *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy with the Allegan Conservation District.

Tues., Apr. 14, 2026, 6pm: Fennville, Pullman, Lakeshore Rotary Gathering
Fenn Valley Vineyards 6130 122nd Ave. Fennville
The public is welcome to drop in and join the Rotary as they learn about the the City of Fennville. Snacks & Beverages will be available.

Tues., Apr. 14, 2026, 7-9pm: Sip & Spin Vinyl Night
Tantrick's Down Under Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a favorite Vinyl to DJ PJ then enjoy conversation and sips with friends.

Wed., Apr. 15, 2026, 11am-2pm: House of the Rising Song Café
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Grab your instrument and join the group or just come and listen and have lunch.

Wed., Apr. 15, 2026, 6:30pm: Pub Quiz @ Tantrick Brewing Co.
Tantrick Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team up to 6 and library card and test your trivia knowledge for 4 rounds. Registration begins at 5:30pm.

Thurs., Apr. 16, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories, songs, and activities.
3:30pm: Teen Art Hangout – 6-12 graders can drop in for fun crafts out of candy.
6pm: The 1910 Road Trip of the Abernathy Boys – Register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy the 2,500 mile trek from New York City to Oklahoma with a detour across Michigan in a brand-new motor car in 1910 by a 9 and 6 year old.

Thurs., Apr. 16, 2026, 5-7pm: Third Thirsty Thursday
The Frill House 1071 32nd St. Allegan
Monthly Happy Hour with the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce. All are welcome.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 5-7:30pm: Plainwell Art Hop
211 N. Main St. Plainwell
Enjoy a beautiful walk around Plainwell to witness the talent of local artists.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 6pm: Teen Tech Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6-12 graders can register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy an evening of fun technology.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 6pm: Murder Mystery Dinner, *Of Sound Mind and Dead Body*
Join the Wayland Union Improv Team for an evening of a 3-course meal and interactive show. Tickets at https://wufactickets.ludus.com/index.php.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 7pm: Kevin McDaniel & Jack Dailey
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy an evening of good food, friends, and acoustic music. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 10am: Summer Activity Fair @ the Griswold
Griswold Auditorium Undercroft Hubbard St. Allegan
Drop in to learn about the many summer camps, classes, and programs offered for youth in Allegan and the surrounding area. Ask questions and receive information to make summer safe and exciting.

Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 10am-4pm: Art in the Garden, A Bouquet of Arts
The Silo 1071 32nd St. Allegan
The Allegan Area Arts Council invites all to participate in workshops, visit the artists and vendors, and enjoy performances.

Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 8pm" Strum, Dumb & Dumber Band
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy an evening of food, friends and music.

Sat., Apr. 18, 8am-5pm & Sun., Apr. 19, 2026, 9am-2pm: Michigan Alpaca Fest
Allegan County Fairgrounds Fair Drive Allegan
Enjoy the beautiful alpacas, fiber art, the shows, demonstrations, and vendors. For more information, visit http://www.mialpacafest.com.

Sun., Apr. 19, 2026, 8am-noon: Eagle Riders Breakfast
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy a wonderful breakfast. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Tues., Apr. 21, 2026, 12-1pm: Leadership Roundtable
ACCF 112 Locust St. Allegan or Zoom
This roundtable offers a trusted environment where leaders can brainstorm ideas, work through challenges, and offer assistance to peers. Register: alleganfoundation.org/community-calendar

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Addiction Support Group, Thursdays 7-8pm
1900 Lincoln Road, Allegan
Come as you are.

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
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We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Thursdays & Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
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Farmhouse serves Pullman Easter feast

By Scott Sullivan
Writer

Farmhouse Deli in Douglas was scene Wednesday, April 1, of prepared food packing for delivery to hungry families in Pullman for an Easter feeding.

It was a joint affair run through Saugatuck-based Feeding Minds and Families, Pullman's People Helping People and Farmhouse owner Chris Ferris, whose business began food to PHP before Christmas 2023, continued for Christmas 2024, then paused last Christmas to help create this Easter's spread.

FMF, formed in 2018 by Ron and Sandy Collins plus Christina Lewis raising funds to buy books for Pullman Elementary School. It has continued doing so to the tune of $4,000 to $8,000 yearly, Ron Collins said.

The nonprofit PHP began as a Bible study for Pullman area adults and youth in 2010. In 2018 it built a new Linking Center wherein residents could connect, receive services and have fun.

Since then, says its website, "we have continued to show the love of Christ through other expansions and programs to equip the Pullman community to reach their God-given potential."

Seems this nexus of groups has friends. This year's new FMF board members Cathy Barnard, Joan Bouman, Pablo Sanpaio, Angela Page, Kate Ure and Brian Di Bartolomeo bring ever-refreshing new blood to group functions

"My goal," Pullman Elementary Principal Amber Mortenson says, is to cultivate reading in every student. It should be a source of joy, curiosity, discovery and comfort.

"Whether a child returns to a favorite book time and time again, becomes immersed in a beloved series, enthusiastically explores a particular genre, or reads to gather information and understanding, I hope to nurture a genuine and personal connection to literacy," she goes on.

FMF expanded its mission in 2025 to address another urgent need, food security. With Farmhouse which donates and cooks all the food, and PHP the team now helps provide meals to more than 1,000 individuals across 125+ families.

"What began as a holiday initiative," Di Bartolomeo writes, "has grown into an ongoing holiday initiative has grown into an ongoing effort, recognizing that need extends far beyond seasonable support.

"Through this partnership, Farmhouse prepares full meals for families and FMF coordinates packing and delivery. Families then select meals that best fit their needs, ensuring access to nutritious, read-to-use food," the new board member goes on.

"In 2026, FMF refined its mission to reflect this dual focus: We are committed to supporting underserved children and families in the Pullman community by providing food assistance, connecting them with local partners, and purchasing books for children to take home — creating access to stories that spark joy, curiosity and confidence for their future.

"We believe when a child owns a book, it becomes more than reading — it becomes identity, imaginations and possibility, adds Di Bartomeo.

"Aslo part of its continued growth, FMF is establishing its own 501c3 nonprofit status and expanding its leadership team, now to nine, strengthening its abiity to serve the community and scale its impact," he says.

FMF aims to raise at least $25,000 in 2026 to support books, food access and family engagement initiatives via three fundraisers starting Thursday, April 19 at Satya Yoga in Saugatuck featuring yoga, a sound bath (you'll have to hear it) and brunch, or only-brunch option with Farmhouse-provided food.

Thursday's packing of two PHP vans plus five volunteer-driven cars or trucks in cold rain to the PHP center for distribution to families there, a bit of an Easter feast.

Community members interested in supporting FMF's work can reach out directly by emailing Di Bartolomeo at bdibarto@gmail.com.

Allegan culinary students showcase their chef skills at fundraiser

The Michigan Hospitality Foundation (MHF), in partnership with Gun Lake Casino Resort, invites the community to an unforgettable evening at ProStart in Paradise, a fundraising event supporting the next generation of hospitality professionals in Michigan.

The event will take place on Tuesday, April 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Wawyé Oasis at Gun Lake Casino, located at 1123 129th Avenue in Wayland. Set within a 32,000-square-foot glass atrium featuring live palm trees, tropical pools, and an 80-degree climate, guests will enjoy a true "escape to the tropics" without leaving Michigan.

Guests will experience a progressive tasting journey through stations highlighting the creative dishes crafted by ProStart students, featuring the talents of the Allegan Area ESA Culinary Arts program participants.

"We are proud to have our talented students contributing to this statewide event by preparing dishes that showcase both their skill and creativity," said William Brown, Allegan Area ESA Superintendent. "Opportunities like this allow them to gain meaningful, real-world experience while demonstrating the high level of preparation and passion they bring to the culinary arts."

To register, visit mihf.org.

Help Wanted

Allegan Township is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. The position will require office hours of Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm and four Saturdays during the year. The candidate should be professional in manner that works well with the public and a problem solver with proficiency in communication and computer skills. Basic understanding of clerical procedures such as typing, record keeping and filing are necessary. Interested candidates should possess organizational skills and have attention to detail.

Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Supervisor Steve Schulz, Allegan Township, 3037 118th Ave., Allegan, Michigan 49010 or call 269-673-5051 with questions.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

Kudos for the excellent report on Allegan's Senior Meals program by Scott Sullivan (The Allegan County News, March 26, 2026).

The most remarkable part of the whole affair is not even how political it became. Complete with pot-stirring, agitating for allies at townships across the county, backstabbing, elected officials weighing in, and more. But that's all situation normal when government contracts are involved. Follow the money, after all.

No, the really incredible part is the core question of the debate.

We've made a political discussion out of what to eat - the most elemental individual decision of daily life on this earth.

Have we lost our minds?

Being poor and elderly does not eliminate the ability or right to make food decisions. It's clear from the article that the people getting meals have opinions as well as specific needs, besides having family able to help decide.

Allegan County could avoid the entire controversy by limiting their decision to who qualifies, and then handing them vouchers to redeem with their chosen meal provider.

Does the law even allow vouchers? If not, all the public energy poured into taking sides over government contracts, could better be spent fixing the system. In Allegan, let's respect our elderly by putting their food decisions where they belong: into their own hands.

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Rescues are an Easter weekend miracle

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

There are moments when a nation is reminded, in the clearest possible terms, who it is and who it chooses to be. The rescue of two American airmen from enemy territory is one of those moments. Not just because it was successful, but because of the very human stories behind it stories of grit, survival, and an unbreakable commitment to bring our people home.

The first airman's ordeal reads like something out of a movie, except it was all too real. After his aircraft went down deep in hostile territory, he didn't just sit and wait. Injured, disoriented, and alone, he began to move—climbing nearly 7,000 feet through unforgiving terrain to reach a position where he could be located and extracted. Think about that for a moment. At high altitude, every step is harder, every breath thinner. Add the constant threat of enemy forces, and it becomes almost unimaginable. Yet he kept going. That kind of determination isn't just training—it's sheer willpower. One has to call it an Easter miracle.

While he fought to survive on the ground, U.S. forces were working relentlessly overhead and behind the scenes. Intelligence teams tracked his movements. The CIA set up a counterintelligence operation to throw the Iranians off guard. Aircraft maintained watch. And when the moment came, rescue personnel moved in, navigating a dangerous environment to reach him and bring him out. It wasn't quick, and it wasn't easy—but they didn't stop until he was safe.

The second airman's story, while less prolonged, was no less important. Flying a separate aircraft, he also went down in enemy territory. But in his case, the response was immediate. Rescue forces were able to reach him quickly, securing and extracting him before the situation could escalate. It was a reminder of just how fast and effective these operations can be when everything aligns—training, timing, and execution.

Two very different scenarios. One airman enduring a grueling, hours-long fight for survival, climbing thousands of feet to stay alive and reachable. The other rescued almost immediately in a rapid-response operation. But both stories lead to the same outcome: Americans coming home.

And that's the point.

In a time when it's easy to focus on what's broken or divided, this is something that works and works remarkably well. It's a system, a culture, and a promise all rolled into one: no matter the circumstances, we go get our people.

These missions are not without risk. Every rescue puts more lives on the line. But that's exactly what makes them so meaningful. The willingness to take that risk, to launch into danger without hesitation, speaks volumes about who we are as a country.

It also sends a powerful message to every service member wearing the uniform: you are not alone. If the worst happens, your country will move heaven and earth to bring you back.

We should feel great about this rescue because it showcases the best of us not just the bravery of the airmen who survived, but the skill, coordination, and courage of those who brought them home.

Two different paths. One shared outcome. And a powerful reminder that, even in the most dangerous corners of the world, that promise still holds. For once we can throw away the division and come together as a nation with a source of pride. We are America, and most likely the only country in the world that could have made these rescues successfully.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

I spent most of last Thursday afternoon March 27 listening to the radio, taking in the opening day of the baseball season. The Chicago Cubs were playing the Washington Nationals, and if you can't remember the score, "Wait 'til next year," Cub fans have already started.

As soon as snow was off the grass at Longfellow Elementary, kids started bringing our gloves and bats to school. We played short pick-up "games" at recess and again after school. We all going to be star pitchers for a major league team, we just knew it.

The next year a T-ball team was formed, and I strutted to the school playground to start my career, which proved short-lived. I flunked out, which takes real effort achieve in T-ball. The Old in charge shouted loud and clear that I had no talent, so sit down. At least I didn't fall off the bench.

Archibald "Midnight" Graham had a longer career, if barely. I looked him up in the books, per Yogi Berra, to the right-fielder played just one game for the New York Giants on June 29, 1905

His story was popularized by W.P. Kineslla's novel "Shoeless Joe" and the subsequent 1989 move "Field of Dreams" starring Kevin Coster while featuring Burt Lancaster and Frank Whaley respectively, as Graham's older and younger incarnations.

Baseball has something for everyone. For some fans, it's all physics. A round ball is thrown in the zone of a player holding the rounded barrel of a bat, no mean feat in its own right, taking into consideration elevation, distance and wind resistance, involving understanding fascinating calculations and equations.

Plus being able to see and decide in less than a second if that pitch is going to sink, rise, be a strike or ball, then swing.

We have enjoyed the Great American Pastime for more than a century and a half, and that means it is well endowed with history and tradition. The lore and myth may mean more to us than the results of a game or even season.

During the offseason. what was called the Hot Stove League gave fans a chance to gather and talk baseball, originally when they sat around a wood stove, often as not as the local hardware or general store.

They'd swap yarns about when Philadelphia organist Wilbur Snapp was playing at aspring training game in Florida, thought the umpire made a boneheaded call and cut loose with "Three Blind Mice." Kevin O'Connor, who made the call, ejected Snapp from the game, the only time in baseball's long that ever happened. It's in the books. You can look that one up too.

Or how in the worst of the 1930s Great Depression, Babe Ruth signed a $50,000 contract with the Yankees. "Do you think it is right for a ball player to make more money than the President?" are reporter asked him.

"I guess I had a better year than he (then President Herbert Hoover) had," Ruth said.

What makes major league baseball come alive is the personal connection between players and fans. For many years, between New Years Day and spring training, teams sent their players out on what were called Rubber Chicken Tours. Even a long term third-string bench-warmer could be the star attraction at father-and-son banquets in church basements, signing autographs and handing out swag. That always made an impression and generated a lifetime of fan loyalty.

When it comes to connecting with fans, at the height of his career Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig still took the subway to and from home to Yankee Stadium. He made a point of talking to the young boys and encouraged them to be good sportsmen, often signing autographs.

When I was growing up in Rochester, Minn., we always had retired ballplayers in town visiting the Mayo Clinic. Whenever possible, advertising agent Walt Bruzek would arrange a dinner and conversation.

Father took me to listen to Burleigh Grimes, a nasty and bitter Yankees pitcher and the last to legally pitch a spitball. Every sentence was laced with profanity, which impressed no one.

In contrast was "Midnight" Graham, by then an elderly retiree known as Dr. Archibald Graham of Chisholm, Minn. but still true gentleman. He came to Rochester each year "just to see what the boys at Mayo are doing."

I got to shake hands him, although it wasn't until reading Kinsella's novel and seeing the film "Field of Dreams" that I learned he was a genuine Big Deal. That and a few bucks will get me a cup of coffee, but it's something I remember.

On opening day, we might recall our favorite broadcasters such as Red Barber, Vince Scully for the Dodgers, Mel Allen for the Yankees, Harry Caray and Jack Brickhouse for the Cubs and of course Ernie Harwell for the Tigers. They were true personalities and made the game come alive. If you listened to them, they are part of your DNA.

President Reagan started his career as an announcer for the Cubs on WHO, the station in Des Moines, Iowa. He was never at Wrigley Field but got the telegraph reports at his microphone. Reagan was such a success recreating the games that many people thought he truly was in Chicago.

One day when the wire was down, Reagan ad-libbed, telling of long wind-ups, yet another foul ball, a long-winded conference at the mound and an imaginary bird that landed on the infield and delayed the game. To his relief, the machine was soon clicking again. No one knew the truth till years later.

Another fellow who loved the game was the great Chicago newspaper columnist Mike Royko. His game was Windy City-style softball, but he wrote often in the Daily News and then Tribune about the Cubs and Sox with reverence at all the game meant to so many people.

The game has changed markedly over the last 150 years. Anyone who wants to see how it was played in the early days only needs to find a Vintage team, such as the nearby Douglas Dutchers. They continue a tradition of playing base ball (it was two words then) matches (now games) since before the Civil War, wore no gloves, played with what we would now call a "dead" ball ... The now/then comparisons and contrasts are fun and striking.

There is one change that's just plain wrong: too much emphasis on money. Some players won't sign autographs unless they get paid. Few players still make free appearances at church basement circuits for family banquets. I know that few players have long careers and make astronomical salaries, but something about this trend just doesn't seem right.

Money has always been an important component of pro baseball, which can lead to substantial betting that becomes corruption, two other popular U.S. pastimes.

Owners, players and fans have done their best to keep everything on the up and up, but have stiff competition from the scoundrels.

When Arnold Rothstein put in the "fix" for the Chicago White Sox to lose the World Series, the resulting Black Sox Scandal nearly killed the game. What saved it? A then Boston Red Sox pitcher named Babe Ruth.

Today, sports betting is far removed from The Olds wagering a whole buffalo nickel on which team would win a game. Now, it is not just the final score, but every minute detail in the game. I think the only one not considered is how many times a player scratches themselves, and where. Millions of dollars exchange hands in a matter of seconds. An estimated 1.3-percent of the bettors are making more than 90 percent of the money.

A lot of people are getting drawn into this racket and are getting hurt. These sports betting outfits, say critics, are built on scalping a lot of losers.

For the Great American Pastime to flourish despite online betting, we need to remember actor Humphrey Bogart's line, "A hotdog at the ballpark is better than a steak at the Ritz," putting the emphasis simple pleasures of sitting in the bleachers to enjoy a game.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor lacks critical thinking

To the editor:

Three columns you have written, "Give tariffs a chance; they might work," "Speculators, not war are driving gas prices higher," and "Scrap current system if we can't figure out how to pay TSA agents," each show a consistent lack of critical thinking. Let's take each of these columns one by one and see if we come to an understanding of what common people experience on a day to day basis.

According to economists smarter than us, tariffs on imported goods are paid by consumers like us. When Trump put a tariff on products we import from China, we, and you, ended up paying more for plastic Easter eggs, hand tools, and a myriad of other goods which arrive on our shores in thousands of shipping containers. This isn't an opinion; this is a fact and it's important to know the difference. Have you been to a store? Your wallet will tell you the truth. China retaliated by placing tariffs on goods they import from us and by finding other sources for the goods they buy from overseas. Take soybeans, for example. Rather than buying soybeans grown on American farms, the Chinese are importing beans from Brazil and Argentina while farmers here are left holding the (unsold) bag to the tune of about $45 billion. Magnanimous Trump says he is helping farmers by giving them $12 billion but the shortfall is destroying family farms in this country. Farmers are not asking for welfare. They are asking for a fair market, without punishing tariffs, where they can sell what they produce.

Oil executives and their conglomerates are reaping huge rewards stemming from Trump's war of choice. Don't take our word for it, take Trump's: "The United States is the largest oil producer in the world, by far, so when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money. But stopping Iran from having nuclear weapons was far more important," he said. The guy filling up his diesel pickup is probably less concerned about nuclear weapons than he is about paying more for his fuel. After all, Trump told him (and us) Iran's nuclear program was obliterated last summer when he sent bombers into a sovereign country. Why is gas so expensive when the US is the largest producer of oil? Oil is sold on the global market with competition for it coming from other countries. West Texas crude competes for market share against oil producers in other countries. The law of supply and demand dictates prices. What you call speculation is the result of removing 20% of the world's oil supply from the global market due to Trump's war of choice. American oil companies are expecting a windfall of $60 billion over the next year owing to his "excursion" (Epstein Fury). Not a bad return on the 1$ Billion they gave Trump's campaign. Those of us who aren't oil billionaires are paying for this folly.

When it became necessary to have a comprehensive screening process at airports, airline companies didn't want any responsibility for doing it themselves. It would add costly employees and equipment which would eat into their profit margins. Companies lobbied Congress to have the government create a new police force. The original proposal was similar to the system Israel uses to screen passengers coming into that country. Lawmakers at the time realized that system would be too expensive and invasive as well as redundant for domestic flights. But they did agree to establish system (TSA) which has evolved into what we now experience whether we fly from Kalamazoo to Chicago or from Detroit to Paris. TSA workers are insulated from the vagaries of airlines' profit margins. The fact that TSA has become a political football lies not in the funding deal Congress has struggled to negotiate but in Trump's need to meddle and push his own self-serving agenda. Eleven times Republicans and Democrats in the Senate have negotiated a bipartisan agreement to open funding for most of the Homeland Security Dept. Ten of those times Trump has intervened to kill the deal.

Early last Friday morning, March 27, a bipartisan Senate approved a bill and sent it to the House. Trump intervened once again and convinced Speaker Johnson to kill the legislation. Johnson has dismissed the Senate-passed bill to fund most of Homeland Security as a "joke" and plans a vote on an alternative. The so-called House "Freedom" Caucus, with Trump's blessing, is about to introduce its own bill which will go nowhere in the Senate. Who is it who really needs to be locked in a room with only water to drink? We're thinking you are blaming the wrong parties. Trump recently found money somewhere to pay TSA salaries. Why didn't he do it 5 weeks ago?

Over this past year, common people in this nation have been hit hard by rising costs for healthcare. We have seen tariffs increase the price of everything from groceries to steel. Gas gets more expensive each day with no end in sight. Common Americans, those of us who have worked hard and played by the rules, need relief from the chaos and costs which hit us daily. The musings in your columns seem to gloss over the underlying cause of the challenges Americans are facing: an unnecessary war and the destructive policies pushed forward by Donald Trump and his allies.

William and Mary Jones

Home delivered meals debacle doesn't make sense

Dear Editor:

I have often wondered exactly when MAGA politics would metastasize from D.C. to local politics. As a watcher of national politics, I have my answer. The debacle around changing the home delivered meals program is a perfect example.

At what point do we move on when we know the BOC (Board of Commissioners) made a mistake, and assume they will not repeat the mistake again? It depends on their motivation and leadership. If the intention was to ensure the longevity and sustainability of home delivered meals, they have failed in that goal.

The FAQ's list on their website says that the reason for the change was not cost savings. As the change in service providers rolled out, it was apparent that the BOC and the Council on Aging didn't do their homework. The product was inferior (both the meals themselves and the lack of wrap around services), the information campaign was deceptive and it revealed that there was potentially a conflict of interest when a commissioner who was on the board of Meals on Wheels voted to take the contract away from the trusted 20 year provider and award it to his special interest. Board members are required to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest. Evidently there was no thought given to recusing himself from the vote.

So what is the reason for the change? Let's consider simple power grabbing as the reason. It is said that "corruption is authority plus monopoly minus transparency". The home delivered meals debacle illustrates just that. Making this change doesn't make sense and it is indefensible. If a group has the authority (which the GOP clearly does) and monopolizes a situation which they have done and the reason isn't clear (lack of transparency), it's likely corruption. With all of the corruption in D.C. that is rampant and out in the open, why not grab some more power and 'own the libs' as well?

Where is the accountability here? Is Meal on Wheels going to absorb the additional cost, or will the county? The BOC's decision has consequences. Does the fact they had to backtrack impact the credibility, sustainability and longevity of the **new** program? Sure it does, but maybe that's the MAGA solution to having to fund social programs. As they have learned from D.C., if they can destroy or damage programs, they can either act as a rescuer later (in this case the public outcry caused them to reverse course) or diminish the program to a point where it is unsustainable. So this decision is the OPPOSITE of what they proclaim is their goal. How's that for leadership?

So the question remains, what other senior or social programs will go by the way side in the hope that no one speaks up? If we can't trust the Board of Commissioners to make a quality decision on Home Delivered Meals, how can we trust them with the Senior Millage funds?

Dave Beranek
South Haven

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The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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Obituary

Susan Marie Nelson

Susan Marie Nelson, 75 of Delton, passed away peacefully after a yearlong courageous battle against pancreatic cancer on April 2, 2026. Born on June 24, 1950, in Kalamazoo to John and Louise (Green) Van Dyke, Susan lived a life marked by love, curiosity, and dedication to her family and passions.

Susan graduated from Portage Northern High School in 1968 and went on to earn a secretarial certificate from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She began her career working for the city of Kalamazoo in the 1970s, where she met the love of her life, Bill Nelson, in 1973. The two were married on June 1, 1974, and together they built a life filled with love and adventure. After starting their family, Susan devoted herself to being a full-time mother. Once her children were grown, she returned to

Susan Marie Nelson

the workforce as part of the Emergency Ambulance Response Systems Inc. team for Mall City Ambulance, where she served as vice president of operations.

A lifelong learner with an insatiable curiosity about the world around her, Susan found joy in many hobbies that reflected her vibrant personality. She was an avid reader who especially loved science fiction books and films—anything involving space captivated her imagination. Her passion for knitting brought warmth to those around her; she created countless handmade treasures for friends and family and was an active member of the Knitting Club at the Delton District Library. Known as the group's expert knitter, Susan was always ready to share her knowledge.

Susan's adventurous spirit extended beyond books and crafts. She had a deep love for puzzles of all kinds—jigsaw puzzles, word puzzles—and enjoyed solving them with precision and enthusiasm. One of her most remarkable accomplishments was geocaching across all 48 contiguous states as well as every county in Michigan and every township in Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Barry Counties. Her meticulous planning made these trips both successful and memorable.

She also treasured time spent with Bill at their oceanfront condo in Myrtle Beach—a place where they could relax together while enjoying the beauty of the sea.

Susan is survived by her beloved husband Bill, their children Jeremy (Shay) Nelson and Tonia (Jon) Aho, grandchildren Breydan, Trask, and Sigrid, and siblings Lois (Bob) Nichols, Albert (Lynda) Van Dyke, Terry Van Dyke, Barbara (Craig) Hayward, and Joseph (Linda) Van Dyke. She was predeceased by her parents John and Louise Van Dyke and her sister-in-law Jane Van Dyke.

Please visit Susan's memorial webpage to share condolences and memories with her family at https://www.Langelands.com

The Root Café is just one of the restaurants spotlighted on the Taste of Allegan County sponsored by the Allegan County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism office. Postcards are available at participating restaurants. Get five stamps on a Postcard and send it to the Tourism Office to be entered in a drawing.

Taste of Allegan County spotlights local restaurants

By Gari Voss

The Allegan County Tourism Council is sponsoring the Taste of Allegan County. Residents and visitors are welcome to participate by picking up a Postcard from the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism office on 122nd Avenue, a Tourist Council member, or one of the participating restaurants. Then players can visit the participating restaurants between April 1 and July 31, 2026.

Postcard holders need to make at least a $15 purchase at a participating restaurant. When paying, ask for a stamp from the restaurant. Collect 5 restaurant stamps on a Postcard. Place a postage stamp on the Postcard and mail the self-addressed Postcard to the Allegan County Tourism office, 3283 122nd Ave., Allegan, MI 49010 before August 17, 2026.

Each Postcard with at least five stamps will qualify the participant for entry into a prize drawing that includes gift cards from participating restaurants.

Participating Restaurants include:

- Pizza Plus, 5601 109th Ave., Pullman
- Saugataco, 650 Water St., Saugatuck
- Root Café, 120 E. Main St., Fennville
- Vitale's, 320 Western Ave., Allegan
- Barbed Wire Café, 140 S. Main St., Plainwell
- Joe's Pizza & Sports Bar, 127 E. Bridge St., Plainwell
- Cocktailz Bar & Grill, 131 Water St., Hopkins
- McDuff's, 105 E. Superior St., Wayland
- One More Grill, 1830 142nd St., Dorr
- Everyday People Café, 11 W. Center St., Douglas

The Tourism office would like to promote Allegan County restaurants while encouraging families and friends to explore new places to find favorite foods and win some great prizes.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

This week's question: What is your best-remembered animal pet disaster story from when you were growing up?

-Woman near the Fennville hardware store: "When I was about 9, a mother raccoon was killed out on the road, and I could hear the young ones crying for her, down in the ditch. I found just one of them and brought it home and raised it. My mother was furious, but she let me keep her, and after a while Mom got kinda fond of her. Bobbie was with me for several years until she ran off. And that is the end of the story."

-Man, same location: "You remember those advertisements on how you could raise sea horses? They were in the back page advertisements of comic books. Well, I sent away for some, and weeks later they came. I did everything right, and the eggs hatched. They weren't real seahorses, but shrimp. What a rip-off!"

-Man, same location: One year I found this rubber snake that looked like a blue racer. Well, I brought it in the house and said I found a snake. My sister was hysterical so Mother made me take it back outside. So, I put it in my pocket and stopped in the bathroom and flushed. When I didn't go outside Mother asked how come, and I fibbed and I said I flushed it instead. My sister wouldn't use the downstairs john for weeks."

-Woman in front of the Allegan Public Library: "I had a parakeet for a few years, and it would ride around on top of my head. His name was Petey. The only problem was he lifted his tail, if you know what I mean, while he was there."

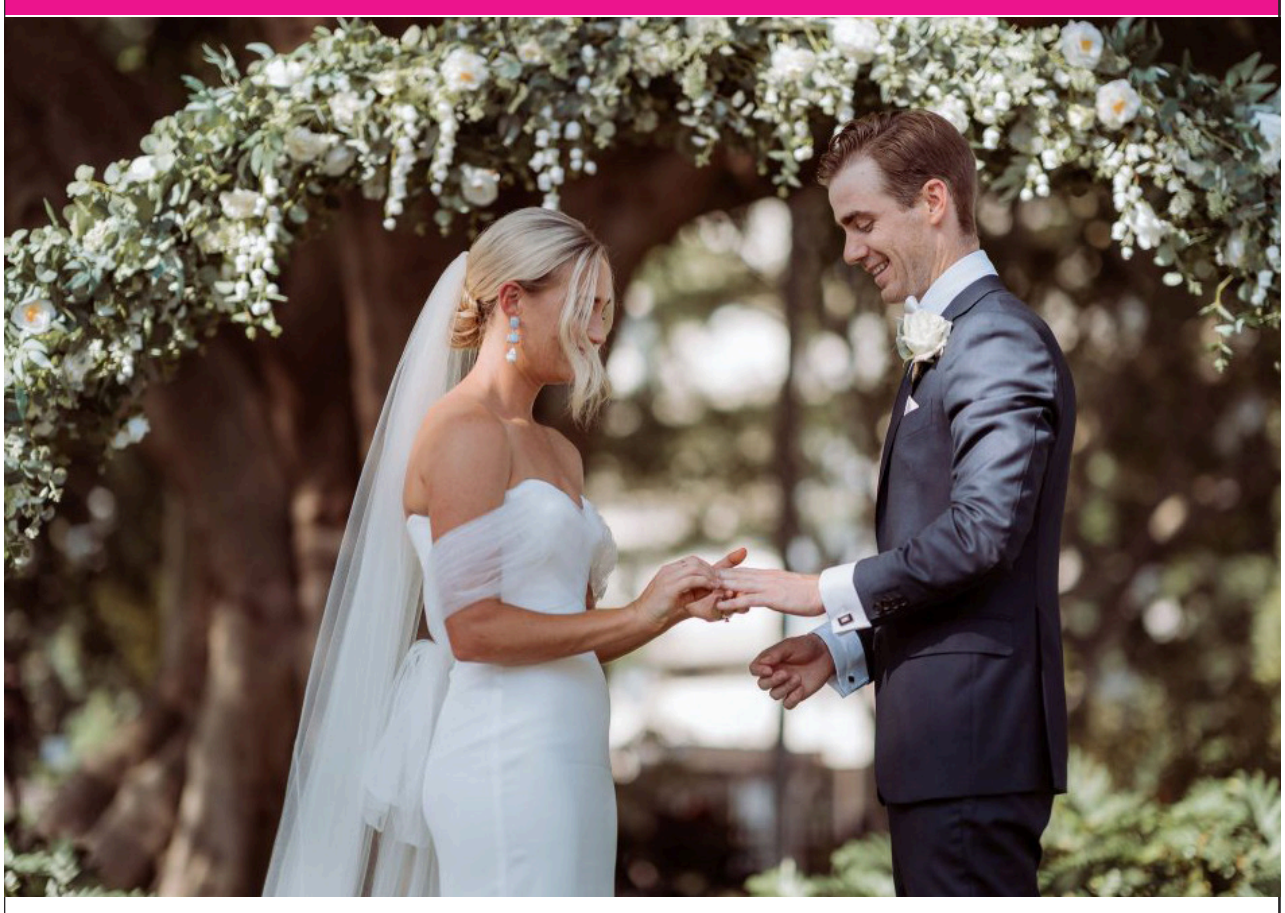
-Couple near the Huntington Bank; Woman: "When we first got married we thought we could make some money from raising and breeding finches. Turned out that no one wanted them." Man: "Yeah, back when I was growing up I had a pet turtle from the 5 and 10. It got loose in the house. That was the end of him. Dad said no more turtles. And we learned, no more finches."

-Man near A-Tech: "I bet you never saw this, but my dad gave me one of those Uncle Milton Ant Farm. It's sand between two plastic sheets of clear plastic, so you could watch the ants tunnel around. When it got warm, we ordered the ants. First batch were dead, so we did it a second time and we got them in their farm. Well, I guess that cat knocked it over and the ants escaped into the house. My sister was pretty [irritated] with me."

-Man near the Allegan Post Office: "Say, you remember that fellow that used to ride around on a bicycle with a chicken in the basket? I got a kick out of seeing him."

-Woman, same location: "We grew up out on a farm and one day my little sister hollered for me to come out and see a baby kitten. It was a black and white one, and it was no kitten. It was a baby skunk." When asked the obvious question, she said she did not get sprayed.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Wedding Planning Tips for a Smooth and Memorable Celebration

Planning a wedding is an exciting milestone, but it can also feel overwhelming without a clear approach. With thoughtful organization and realistic expectations, couples can create a meaningful celebration while keeping stress to a minimum. Careful planning allows the focus to remain on the significance of the day rather than the challenges along the way.

One of the first and most important steps is establishing a budget. Determining how much can be comfortably spent helps guide decisions on venue, catering, attire, and other key elements. Prioritizing what matters most—whether it is the location, guest experience, or photography—ensures resources are allocated effectively.

Selecting a venue early is essential, as popular locations often book months or even years in advance. The venue sets the tone for the entire event and influences guest count, décor, and scheduling. Couples should consider accessibility, parking, and seasonal factors when making their choice.

Creating a detailed timeline can keep planning on track. Booking vendors such as photographers, florists, and entertainment well in advance helps secure preferred options. Sending invitations with adequate notice allows guests time to make arrangements, particularly for out-of-town travel.

Communication plays a key role throughout the process. Clearly outlining expectations with vendors and maintaining regular contact helps prevent misunderstandings. Keeping all contracts, receipts, and contact information organized in one place can simplify coordination as the date approaches.

Flexibility is also important. Unexpected changes, whether related to weather, availability, or logistics, can arise during planning. Approaching these situations with adaptability helps reduce stress and keeps the focus on the overall experience rather than minor setbacks.

Personal touches often make a wedding truly memorable. Incorporating meaningful traditions, custom décor, or unique elements that reflect the couple's story adds depth to the celebration. These details help create a day that feels authentic and memorable for both the couple and their guests.

Finally, it is important to remember the purpose behind the event. Taking time to step back from planning and enjoy the engagement period can help maintain perspective. On the wedding day itself, trusting the preparation and allowing others to handle details enables couples to fully experience the moment.

With careful planning, clear communication, and a focus on what matters most, a wedding can become a joyful and lasting memory for everyone involved.

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Batch of community grants awarded

By Joseph Schultz

Apex Clean Energy – Blazing Star Solar has announced the latest recipients of the Blazing Star Solar Community Grants. The grants, totaling $30,000, were awarded to organizations for "their community impact and alignment with the grant program's mission."

Community Action of Allegan County (CAAC) received the lion's share of the grant money, with $15,000 going to the Crisis Utility Assistance program. The program helps families earning below 200% of the poverty line with their utility bills. Executive Director Lisa Evans stated, "With support from APEX Clean Energy, CAAC looks forward to extending crisis utility support to more people in need and is incredibly grateful for their philanthropy and partnership."

Wayland Fire and Police Departments were awarded $5,000 to provide new furniture for a renovated training room. The training room also serves as a polling place and a community meeting room. "With their support, we are now able to upgrade our training room with new furniture that supports better training and stronger service for our residents," explained Police Chief Scott Matice.

The Allegan Conservation District won a $4,000 grant for the Seeds for Restoration program. The program will establish a community seed bank for native plants. Executive Director Brian Talsma said, "We're really excited to get Seeds for Restoration off the ground thanks to this award."

The Wayland Union Robotics Team was again awarded a grant of $2,500 to help the team prepare for competition. The funds were put to good use, with the robotics team winning the district title last week and is moving on to the state tournament.

Another $2,500 was awarded to the Wayland Area Emergency Medical Services (WAEMS), for the purchase of bicycle helmets. WAEMS was able to distribute free bike helmets from a grant in 2021, and is excited to be able to do that again this year.

The Henika District Library was awarded $1,000 for an innovative project that will use virtual reality to promote interest in STEM education. "By offering equitable access to innovative VR technology, the library is strengthening STEM literacy, supporting classroom learning, and inspiring curiosity and future career exploration in our community," Youth Librarian Tori Schreur was quoted as saying.

News of the grants comes as the Wayland Township Planning Committee prepares to hold the first hearing for Apex Clean Energy's 125-megawatt solar project on Wednesday, April 8. The meeting will be relocated from the township hall to the SS Cyril & Methodius Church at 159 131st Avenue in Wayland. It will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Apex has placed a summary of the permit application on the Blazing Star Solar's website for concerned residents to review. The review can be found at https://www.blazingstarsolar.com/permit_application.

Editor's Note: This story courtesy of TownBroadcast

How Flowers Made Our World

The Bookworm Sez

"How Flowers Made Our World: The Story of Nature's Revolutionaries"

by David George Haskell

c.2020, Atria
$32.00 • 352 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The blooms on your kitchen counter won't last long.

That's okay, though. Part of the allure of flowers is their fragility, making them precious and extra-special as they perfume the air, make the room look brighter, and they make you happy. A colorful handful of flowers on the kitchen counter is a rare treat, not a forever-thing, but as you'll see in the new book "How Flowers Made Our World" by David George Haskell, the effects of them are.

The rose tattoo on a bicep. The spontaneous stem gifted by a stranger. A garden filled with hydrangeas. Hard to imagine that just two hundred million years ago, flowers didn't exist but by 100 million years ago, they were nearly everywhere on Earth. Today, 90 percent of all the plants in our world are flower-bearing and if they weren't here, we wouldn't be either.

That's a sobering thought: without flowers, modern plants wouldn't propagate. The nature of the planet would be altered. No flowers means no hummingbirds, bees, or butterflies, forests or savannas. The world would smell musty, the physiology of our sight would be different – and that's if we survived. Without flower-bearers, herbivorous livestock would have nothing to eat, and since most of humanity's food is grass-based, we'd likewise starve, too.

Some plants, says Haskell, are "bisexual," possessing both male and female parts, while others "segregate" the sexes. Goatsbeard can carefully and beneficially crossbreed with the help of bees. Orchids feed on fungi, and they save tiny strands of it inside themselves. Grasses evolved to benefit from wildfires and, in turn, they create soil. Seagrasses help maintain marshes and keep waterbanks cleaner. Roses were instrumental in the creation of perfumes. Botanist Carl Linnaeus was so obsessed with growing tea in Sweden that he took to thievery.

Of course, plants are sometimes intentionally imported, moved for propagation – but others are more opportunistic…

They're on your clothing. You've got them on your posters, pillows, and plushy things. You see floral motifs so often in everyday life that it's easy to miss them, but read "How Flowers Made Our World" and you'll never look at a posey the same again.

Telling an ancient story through eight species of flowering plants, author David George Haskell lets it sink into readers the importance of flowers of all kinds. He makes each story delightful and surprising by cluing us in on the secrets that are beneath our feet and below our noses, revealing historical advances and little-known floral facts that have surrounded us all along. This is the kind of book that'll make you get on-your-knees, up-close-and-personal with the plants in your front yard. You'll want to seek out hidden flowers you never knew were there. It might even spark you to appreciate weeds.

If you're a gardener, in particular, you'll relish this book for its openhearted curiosity. If you care for houseplants, you like to eat, or you love a good science book, here it is. Find "How Flowers Made Our World," open it up, and let your interest bloom.

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer.

Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 13,000 books.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

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Regional resource for entrepreneurs: Business Hub expands its reach

By Art Nicholas

When most people hear "South Haven Regional Business Hub," they might assume it serves a small lakeshore community. Think again. Under its new executive director, A. Elizabeth Bernhard, the hub has grown into a regional force for small business development — drawing clients from Allegan, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Barry, Calhoun, Ottawa, and Kent counties, in addition to its home base of Van Buren.

"Our name says South Haven, but we focus on all of the counties in southwest Michigan," Bernhard said in a recent interview. "Van Buren County represents our largest client base, but our second largest is Kalamazoo County, followed by Allegan and Berrien." The organization is already wrestling with whether its name still fits — and a rebranding may be on the horizon.

The hub's mission is straightforward but vital: helping entrepreneurs and small business owners start, grow, and stay in business. The stakes are high. Nationally, more than half of all small businesses fail within five years. The hub's 2025 Impact Report puts the problem in stark local terms: with an average of 2,700 new business applications filed regionwide each year, far too many of those businesses won't survive — typically not because of bad ideas or lack of passion, but because of gaps in business fundamentals: understanding financials, building a customer base, navigating marketing.

The hub's own numbers tell a different story for the businesses it serves. Since its founding in 2023, it has supported 89 businesses, with 82 currently active. Hub-supported businesses have collectively generated 328 jobs (created or retained), $28.7 million in small business revenue, and $14.76 million in annual payroll. The hub has awarded $56,000 in grants to clients and reports a 254 percent growth rate — alongside a 92 percent business retention rate that dramatically outpaces the national average of around 50 percent.

"Businesses rarely fail for lack of ideas," Bernhard writes in the impact report. "They fail when entrepreneurs lack the knowledge, skills, and strategic guidance needed to execute effectively." The hub addresses this by wrapping education, mentorship, and peer community around entrepreneurs who have the drive but need the tools.

Bernhard came to the hub in July 2025, having served as a strategic partner of the organization while leading the Manufacturing Growth Alliance, a Benton Harbor-based statewide nonprofit. A native of Barry County and South Haven resident since 2019, she said the position felt like the right opportunity at the right time — a chance to work in her own community rather than crisscrossing the state.

The hub's client base is notably diverse. According to the impact report, 58 percent of businesses served are woman-owned, 27 percent are Black or African American-owned, and 14 percent are Hispanic or Latino-owned — a signal that the hub is reaching entrepreneurs who have historically had less access to business support resources.

The hub offers a ladder of programs accessible to entrepreneurs across the region. The Startup Series — six standalone sessions covering business financials, marketing, sales, and more — served 69 entrepreneurs in 2025. The Growth Series, a 26-week intensive cohort for more established businesses, provided deep support to seven growth-stage firms in 2025. A new fourth program, the Strong Leader Series, launched in December with 16 South Haven-area business leaders; every single participant reported achieving their primary goal for attending, and 100 percent said they would recommend the series to others.

A key ingredient is mentorship. The lakeshore region attracts accomplished retirees eager to give back — people who have built, grown, and sold businesses. In 2025, volunteers logged 2,762 hours of direct support to hub clients. Mentors provide strategic coaching and accountability, while a pool of volunteer subject matter experts — CPAs, marketing professionals, bookkeepers — provides technical assistance on an as-needed basis.

The hub's collaborative philosophy extends to its ecosystem of more than 20 regional partners, including the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan SBDC, Southwest Michigan First, Market One, Emerge Innovation Hub, and both the South Haven Area and Southwest Michigan Regional Chambers of Commerce. Financially, the hub brought in $174,075 in total 2025 revenue — 75 percent from grants, 21 percent from individual donations and sponsorships — and invested 63 percent of expenses directly into programming.

Looking ahead, the hub's most ambitious new initiative is a planned "Lakeshore Capital Consortium" — modeled after a successful Kalamazoo program founded by board chair Debi Howe — which will bring together financial institutions ranging from traditional banks to CDFIs to serve as a clearinghouse for small business capital needs. The initiative is expected to launch in 2027.

Historically, the hub's municipal relationships have been concentrated in South Haven. But Bernhard said reaching other cities — including those in Allegan County — is now a strategic priority. "We believe that when we make the same business case to other municipalities, whether it's Bangor, Covert, or Allegan, they too will see the value and the ROI," she said.

For entrepreneurs across Allegan County and southwest Michigan looking to start or scale a business, the Growth Series is currently accepting applications through May 13 6PM; the cohort begins June 10. The hub's flagship showcase event, The Pitch — where Growth Series graduates present their business visions to the broader community — is scheduled for December 2 at Lake Michigan College in South Haven, and is open to the public. More information is available at southhavenregionalbusinesshub.org, or by contacting Executive Director Elizabeth Bernhard at elizabeth@southhavenregionalbusinesshub.org or 269-720-1699.

Correction

A death notice printed on April 2 listed should of read LINDA MAY JOHNSON, 74, of Ganges Twp. passed away on February 13, 2026.

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

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Chickens ■ *from Page A1*

compost piles, eating bugs, aerating soil, eating kitchen fruit and vegetable waste, reducing landfill usage and life's overall carbon footprint," The Alexanders' letter said.

"Properly cared for and cleaned up after, they would make less noise and smell than most dogs," wrote the women.

The petition noted in addition:

• Backyard hens provide an opportunity to teach children where food comes from and demonstrate responsible pet ownership.

• When properly raised, chickens can be wonderfully affectionate and entertaining pets.

• Fresh, naturally-raised eggs have a a better nutrient profile than conventional eggs.

• Chickens produce a rich fertilizer byproduct, high in nitrogen, eliminating the need for petrochemical fertilizers and great for use in compost bins.

• Chickens eat bugs, including ticks, Japanese beetles and flies, reducing our backyard pest populations and allowing for reduced use of pesticides.

• Chickens eat table scraps, reducing municipal solid waste.

• A properly-cleaned maintained coop poses no sanitation needs.

Douglas duly amended its animal ordinance Jan. 15, 2018, to allow keeping up to six backyard hens in a single-family residentially-property. But roosters, turkeys, peacocks and other fowl still were banned.

Yardbirds were allowed for personal use only; i.e. as pets, to lay eggs or provide meat for personal consumption.

They had to be contained in fully-enclosed coops or fenced-in pens detached from the home and set back at least 23 feet from neighbor lots, at all times. No offensive odors could emanate more than 10 feet from a coop or pen.

Douglas would allow as many as five backyard chicken permits what city council called a "pilot program" to see how well backyard chickens fly.

Few neighbor feathers were ruffled the first four years. In 2020 Douglas tweaked its new law to allow up to six birds per permit.

The rub: "If any neighbor objects for any reason whatsoever within 21 days of a property owner submitting a chicken permit application, the city is flatly prohibited from issuing a chicken permit, which shall not be granted, with no right of appeal."

In 2023 Sarkisian, thinking it would be "wonderful to have egg-laying birds as friends and company, applied. On July 21 that year, then zoning administrator Joseph Blair marked "approved" on her application, so she set about building a coop and pen — also known as a "chicken run."

"I told my May Street neighbors what I planned to do and they were supportive," Sarkisian told The Commercial Record.

Complaint 1

Except at least one: Debbi Larsen, who wrote council and this paper post-settlement March 16:

"These issues and all that followed began over 2 years ago when Kathy S/ came to my door asking me to sign a paper saying she could have chickens. I had no idea about any of this so I said no I wouldn't sign anything," Larsen testified.

"The next day, I received a letter from the city telling me about the chickens and I had 21 days to oppose them, which I did. She started building her coop anyway. She said she got approved to build it, but she did NOT!

"I realize she won the lawsuit against the city, and they must change the ordinance so neighbors can't oppose the chickens," her neighbor went on.

But "We have lived in our home 26 years, 10 years longer than Kathy S/ has been in her mother's home, and I'm sorry, but we have rights too. We smell and hear the chickens when we sit on our back porch in the summer; her home is on a small city lot in the middle of Douglas!

"I ask each of you to think if your neighbor put up a coop next to your house, how would you feel? We don't live on acres, we live on small lots.

"Kathy also has feral cats which come in my yard and poop and kill my birds, but that has been going on for years and nothing can be done with that either."

Council March 16 acknowledged Larsen's letter but declined to read its full text aloud, then accepted the second and last reading of the revised 5-page amendment by unanimous roll call vote.

The deal was done.

Uncooped

Seems violation notices started popping up on Sarkisian's door and pen in October 2023 warning her she was in violation of city law and subject to fines of up to $300 a day it went unabated.

"No way I could afford that," she told The Commercial Record. "Someone told me about the pro-bono Pacific Legal Foundation, so I reached out to them."

PLF's website, which boasts "Suing the government since 1973," says the 501c3 nonprofit, which accepts no government funding, is "a national public interest law firm that defends Americans from government overreach and abuse. We sue the government when it violates your constitutional rights — and we win."

Complaint 2

On May 27, 2025 the high-profile PLF on behalf of Sarkisian sued The City of the Village of Douglas, claiming plaintiff, already granted a permit, saw the city revoke "because of a neighbor's complaint."

In the process, it violated her 14th Amendment right protections "against arbitrary and irrational exercises of governmental power that interfere with property rights and personal liberties.

"In reliance on the City's issuance of a chicken permit," the complaint reads, "Kathy (first name used throughout) spent approximately $18,000 constructing the coop and run." Ditto "roughly $5,000 improving her perimeter fences, so no one could see her chickens from the street," it went on.

"She purchased six young hens (or "pullets)" at her local feed store. All six (Butter, Sugar, Cinnamon et.al.) are with her to this day.

"Kathy doesn't keep roosters (the ordinance defines 'chickens' to "not include roosters,' nor does Kathy want any)," it explains.

"Kathy's coop and run are well-designed and regularly cleaned. Her chickens are quiet, odorless and free from disease. There has been no increase in the presence of other animals on account of the birds," her plea reads.

"Under Kathy's care, the chicks have grown into healthy laying hens, and the birds now lay five to six eggs per day. She has raised six hens essentially from birth and has bonded with the birds as pets — in the same way another person would bond with a cat or dog.

"The fresh eggs they lay daily are a staple of Kathy's diet and a key ingredient in the food she serves her husband and mom." So her plea went.

"Kathy lives in Douglas in a house built by her grandparents. The property is roughly 14,000 square feet and zoned R-3, which allows typical residential uses including accessory uses by right, PLF wrote.

"In 2009, Kathy moved to the property to care for her elderly parents, who then resided in the home. In 2022, Kathy and her husband Sam bought the property from Kathy's mom.

"Kathy and Sam now own the property in fee simple absolute and live there full-time. Kathy's 94-year-old mom still lives at the property part-time."

Hatch

PLF's lawsuit starts in Latin: Gallus gallus domesticus — better known as chickens — and their eggs are healthy, sustainable and locally-sourced nutrition. Americans have raised chickens at home for centuries, and with rapidly rising prices and growing food safety concerns, many do today ...

"The City told Kathy she must stop raising chickens, and that she is barred from contesting the neighbor's decision. The City is also imposing daily fines, which continue to mount, and could exceed $200,000 — placing Kathy in jeopardy of losing her home as well as her chickens."

Douglas has shuffled ZA's since Blair, Sean Homyen holding that post now. It brought in attorney Charles Brogan to join him in what Sarkisian calls cordial negotiations with PLF to arrive at a settlement.

Coda

Was the lawsuit a flawsuit? Douglas responded in a letter signed off on by city manager Lisa Nocereli, Homyen, Mayor Cathy North and councilman/planning commission liaison Matt Balmer:

"Please see the city's response below that has been approved by the attorney that handled the matter regarding the chicken ordinance/ lawsuit:

"The City of the Village of Douglas," wrote Brogan, "reached a resolution in the matter of Sarkisian v. City of the Village of Douglas, resulting in updates to the City's existing chicken ordinance and bringing the case to a close.

"As part of the resolution, the city has adopted revisions to its ordinance that provide a clearer, more-structured process for residents seeking to keep chickens. The updated ordinance removes the previous 'neighbor veto' provision and instead establishes a review process based on objective criteria, including lot size, housing and containment plans and compliance with existing zoning requirements.

"Public input may still be submitted and considered as part of the application record; however, permits cannot be denied solely based on neighbor objections.

"The revised ordinance also introduces a formal appeal process, allowing applicants to seek review by the City Council if a permit is denied. Additionally, annual permit renewals will follow a simplified process, while still maintaining safeguards to address any potential nuisance concerns.

"As part of the settlement agreement, the City will issue a permit to the plaintiff under the updated ordinance framework. In return, the case was dismissed with prejudice, meaning the matter is fully resolved and cannot be refiled on the same grounds.

"City officials view these updates as a positive step forward, ensuring that the ordinance is fair, transparent and consistent with legal standards, while still maintaining the City's ability to address concerns related to health, safety and neighborhood compatibility.

"This resolution allows the city to move forward with a stronger ordinance that is both practical for residents and aligned with our broader regulatory framework," the city attorney said.

Something to Crow About

"The government," PLF lawyer Wesley Hottot said after, "cannot give private individuals, like your neighbors, the unreviewable authority to strip your rights from you as they please."

Neighbor Saugatuck still is chickenless, despite resident Sevryn Nowicki lobbying city council Jan. 13, 2025 to adopt its own ordinance.

Kate Cotton, 11, chimed in June 9 that year asking city council to allow residents to keep chickens for six reasons:

"1. My family has a very big back yard and we have room for chickens.

"2. Having chickens would be helpful for parents with younger children to teach them responsibility.

"3. Douglas allows chickens.

"4. My school raises chicks and is looking for people to take them home.

"5. I know you are going to email me about the noise, so I have a proposal; you could make a rule: no roosters.

"6. People could have healthy breakfasts because their chickens are laying eggs."

So far from council not a peep.

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MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

April 9, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN'S DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Prior to submission for further funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, Michigan is required to publish an Annual Action Plan document for public review and comment tied to the State's five-year Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan proposes an action strategy by which needs will be addressed and reflects activities undertaken between July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

The **comment period** will commence on Thursday, April 9, 2026, and end on Monday, May 11, 2026. **In-person public hearings** will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, from 9:00-9:30a.m. at the MSHDA Meeting at Eagle Eye Golf & Banquet Center, 1550 Chandler Rd., Bath, MI 48808 and on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, from 1:00-2:00p.m. at the MSHDA Detroit office, Cadillac Place Building, 3028 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 4-600, Detroit, MI 48202. **A special virtual public hearing** will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams, **Join:** https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26690235843816?p=cNIlplqOL0TI7gCv04, Meeting ID: 266 902 358 438 16, Passcode: ir68eY9K OR call in (audio only) 1-248-509-0316, 447314986#, Phone Conference ID: 447 314 986#.

Introduction
The Annual Action Plan consists of funding by applicable formula programs: HOME, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and all related programs including CDBG Disaster Recovery, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs (HOPWA), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), the Recovery Housing Program (RHP) as applicable, and the Housing Trust Fund (HTF).
The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing the five year plan, annual action plans, as well as the annual Michigan Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and soliciting comments from the public regarding the outcomes tied to the draft Plan and reporting outcomes on an annual basis thereafter. A link to the draft annual action plan can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/michigan-consolidated-plan.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments directly related to the draft Michigan Annual Action Plan. Information gathered during the written comment period will be used to prepare the Michigan Annual Action Plan for submission.

Individuals and organizations may submit written comments to Tonya Joy and Pierre-Denise Gilliam, 735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909. **Written comments must be received no later than May 11, 2026**. Comments can also be submitted to the MSHDA Consolidated Plan Coordinator via e-mail to mshda-ndd@michigan.gov.

Copies of the Michigan Annual Action Plan may be downloaded free of charge from the MSHDA website link above.

Special Assistance: Feedback is encouraged from mobility-challenged individuals. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact the MSHDA Neighborhood Development Division at 517-335-2524 to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

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B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest Award-winning Newspaper Best Sports Column
Thursday, April 9, 2026

Sixth-inning rally lifts Hamilton over visiting Hopkins

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON — After being held in check for much of the game, the Hamilton offense came through when it mattered most.

The Hawkeyes broke a tie with three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, rallying for a 5-4 win over visiting Hopkins on Wednesday, April 1.

Hamilton managed just two hits through the first five innings before coming alive in the sixth, using three hits and a walk to push across the go-ahead runs.

"It was a good game," Hamilton coach Brian Grabinski said. "Hopkins has a talented team and Pat (O'Dell) is an outstanding coach, so it's always nice to pick up a win against an opponent like that."

The Hawkeyes struck first with a run in the opening inning, but Hopkins answered and eventually took control with a three-run fourth inning to build a 4-2 lead.

From there, Hamilton stayed within striking distance before breaking through late.

"I was proud of how our kids battled," Grabinski said. "We've been making some changes to our offensive approach this year. It's off to a good start and the kids have bought into it."

That approach showed early as well, even against Hopkins' starting pitcher.

"Even in the first inning when they were throwing their Division I commit, we were able to make some things happen and put the pressure on the defense," Grabinski said. "It allowed us to scrape across a run."

Hamilton's scrappy style paid off again in the sixth inning, as the Hawkeyes capitalized on their opportunities to take the lead for good.

"Our kids are pretty scrappy and it showed," Grabinski said. "We were far from perfect, but we did a good job of taking advantage of opportunities when they were presented to us."

Owen Brown picked up the win in relief for Hamilton, tossing three scoreless innings while allowing just two hits and striking out four. Starter Jakin Cozzello worked the first four innings, giving up four runs (three earned) on three hits.

At the plate, Marc Brower, Keegan Springer, Ty DeHaan, Caden Schrotenboer and Ryan Welscott each had a hit for the Hawkeyes, who also drew six walks.

Hopkins was led offensively by Matthew Woollam, who had two hits and an RBI. Tyler Smith, Blake Smigiel and Merek Zapolnik each added a hit, with Zapolnik and Woollam driving in runs.

Despite the loss, Hopkins coach Pat O'Dell saw positives, particularly early in the game.

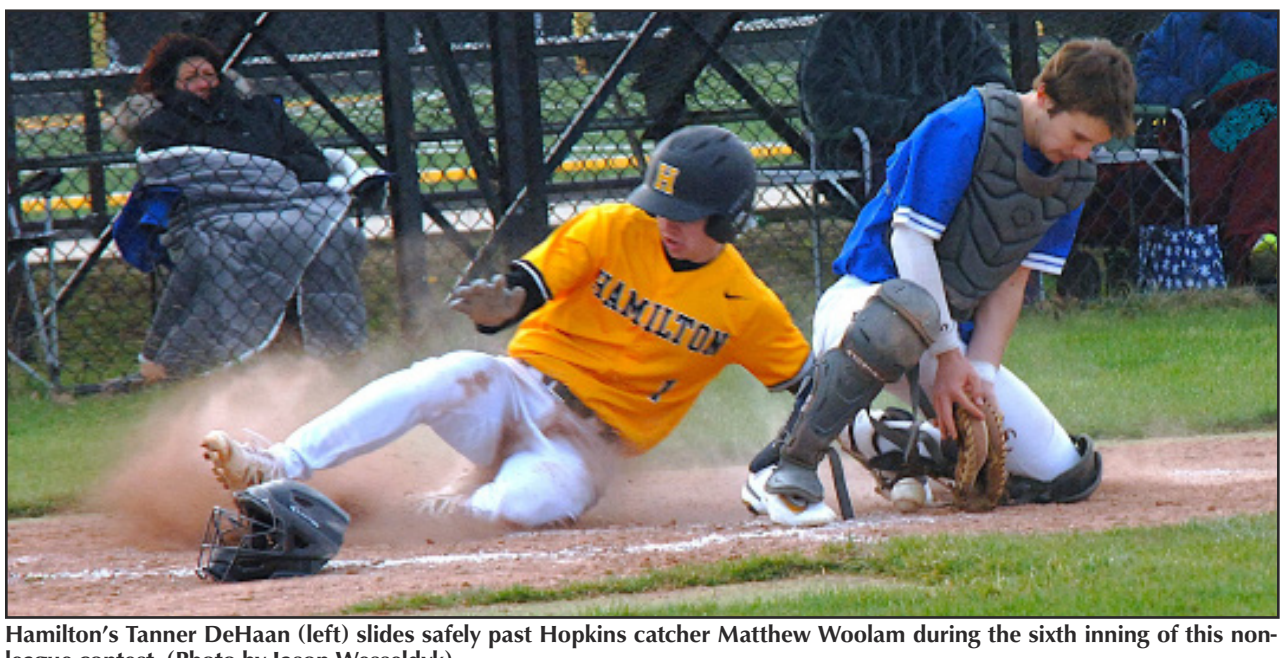
"We had a great game going," O'Dell said. "It was the last game before spring break, so I wanted to get some pitchers in the game."

Hopkins used four pitchers in the contest, with starter Kellen Ford working two innings. He allowed one unearned run on no hits and three walks with four strikeouts.

"Overall, I was happy with five innings of play," O'Dell said. "In the bottom of the sixth, the pitcher struggled a little, but we had two errors we should not have had. The weather made it hard to concentrate."

O'Dell credited Hamilton for taking advantage late.

"Hamilton is a good team, and us making mistakes at the end did not help us," he said.


Hamilton's Tanner DeHaan (left) slides safely past Hopkins catcher Matthew Woolam during the sixth inning of this non-league contest. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Girls Soccer Season Preview:

Allegan senior Mya Corbett returns at goalie for Allegan. (File photo)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLEGAN

A new era begins for Allegan girls soccer.

But the expectations remain the same.

Following a run to the MHSAA Division 3 state semifinals last season, the Tigers enter the 2026 campaign under new leadership, as Stu McLean takes over for longtime coach Paul Legge.

And while the voice on the sideline may be different, the mindset has not changed.

"The team enters the season carrying the momentum from last year's incredible run," McLean said. "That experience has us fired up and focused on building even further."

Allegan returns a strong core of experienced players, many of whom played key roles in last year's postseason success.

"We return a group that knows what success looks like," McLean said. "They've been through the intensity of deep tournament games, and that maturity shows every day."

Senior leadership will be a major strength for the Tigers, led by goalkeeper Mya Corbett along with defenders Zoey Phillips, Ellie Ziemelis and Bella Giovanucci.

"Mya had some clutch performances in big moments last year, while Zoey and Ellie bring toughness, versatility and a strong defensive presence," McLean said.

Additional senior contributors include Ky Dillon in goal, Desi White in the midfield and Morgan Green on the back line.

That group is complemented by a mix of returning underclassmen and newcomers, giving Allegan both depth and versatility across the field.

Sophomores Aubrey Fulton and Elana Byers—both of whom gained valuable varsity experience as freshmen—are expected to take on larger roles in the attack.

"They're ready to step into expanded roles and help lead our offense," McLean said.

Other returning players include sophomores Khloey Lutz-Brown (midfield/defense), Kendra Rogers (midfield) and Sienna Cariker (defense).

Newcomers such as Evy Hoffmeister (midfield), Kara Wooster (forward) and Sydney Cooley (defense) will also look to make an immediate impact.

In addition to experience and talent, McLean pointed to team chemistry as a defining characteristic of this year's squad.

"This is a special group with outstanding chemistry," he said. "They genuinely enjoy being around each other, push one another to get better and create an environment that's both competitive and fun."

Maintaining that mindset will be key as the Tigers navigate both the regular season and postseason.

"We talk a lot about it being a marathon, not a sprint," McLean said. "The focus is on staying present—whether it's a game or practice—and not looking ahead or relying on past success."

With that approach, Allegan has its sights set on another strong season.

"We're aiming to compete for SAC honors, make another deep playoff run and put ourselves in position to contend for a state title," McLean said.

FENNVILLE

For Fennville, the focus this season is simple: come together and grow.

With a roster made up of players from multiple grade levels, the Blackhawks enter the 2026 campaign looking to build chemistry early and continue improving as the season progresses.

"Our goal number one is to gel as a unit and learn to be competitive together," coach Mark Gray said. "We want to get better every game and every practice, and be playing our best soccer by the time districts arrive."

Fennville returns a group of experienced players who will be counted on to lead the way.

That group includes seniors Anahi Sanchez (defense), Marisol Diaz (midfield), Adamari Torres (midfield) and Isis Diaz (midfield), along with juniors Andy Balke (forward), Ami Fernandez (defense) and Dina Santos Porres (defense).

Gray believes that experience will be important, particularly when it comes to setting the tone for a younger roster.

"We have a handful of girls who work hard and understand the game well," he said. "The key will be how they develop into the positive leaders we need for some of the younger players."

Those younger players include a group of newcomers who could make an immediate impact.

Candela Ruiz Martinez, a junior midfielder, joins the varsity squad along with freshmen Wren Mathers (defense), Leslie Hernandez (keeper) and Nidia Villalobos (midfield/forward).

As the season unfolds, Fennville will look to find consistency while continuing to develop as a team.

The Blackhawks are coming off a 7-7-2 season that resulted in a third-place finish

see Girls Soccer, Page B3

Boys Track Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE

Coach: Josh Sliter

Returning letter winners: Atticus Boeve, jr. (distance—800, 1,600, 3,200); Jaciel Ruiz, sr. (distance—800, 1,600, 3,200); Ashton Halcomb, sr. (sprints—100, 200, 400); Carter Thompson, sr. (sprints—100, 200, 400); Calvin Giles, jr. (throws); Uly Estrada, sr. (throws).

Top newcomers: Julian Wiemer, fr. (sprints, long jump, high jump); Kolten Hagger, fr. (sprints, jumps); Chris Davie, fr. (sprints, jumps); Gabe Gonzalez, jr. (distance); Lucas Lombard, fr. (distance).

Season outlook:

Fennville enters the 2026 season focused on steady growth and continued development across the board.

"The goal for this season is to see growth in all the athletes," coach Josh Sliter said. "Every track meet we are looking to see improvement."

The Blackhawks bring back a core group of contributors in both sprinting and distance events, along with several newcomers who are expected to make an immediate impact.

"The team has strengths in both areas, especially with the new additions to both sprinting and distance," Sliter said.

Among those to watch are junior Atticus Boeve, who is expected to take a step forward in the distance events, and newcomer Gabe Gonzalez, who could be competitive in the 800 and 1,600. Freshman Julian Wiemer is another athlete to keep an eye on after a strong showing in the long jump, where he has already posted a mark of 19 feet, 3 inches.

While the team has added numbers this season, depth remains a challenge.

"Keeping the athletes we do have healthy and injury-free is going to be key," Sliter said. "Trying to prevent burnout is crucial."

In the conference, Fennville hopes to be competitive in individual events, though overall team scoring may be impacted by limited depth.

"We're hoping to finish toward the middle of the group, but that can be difficult when you can't always fill every event," Sliter said. "We'll rely heavily on individual performances to score points."

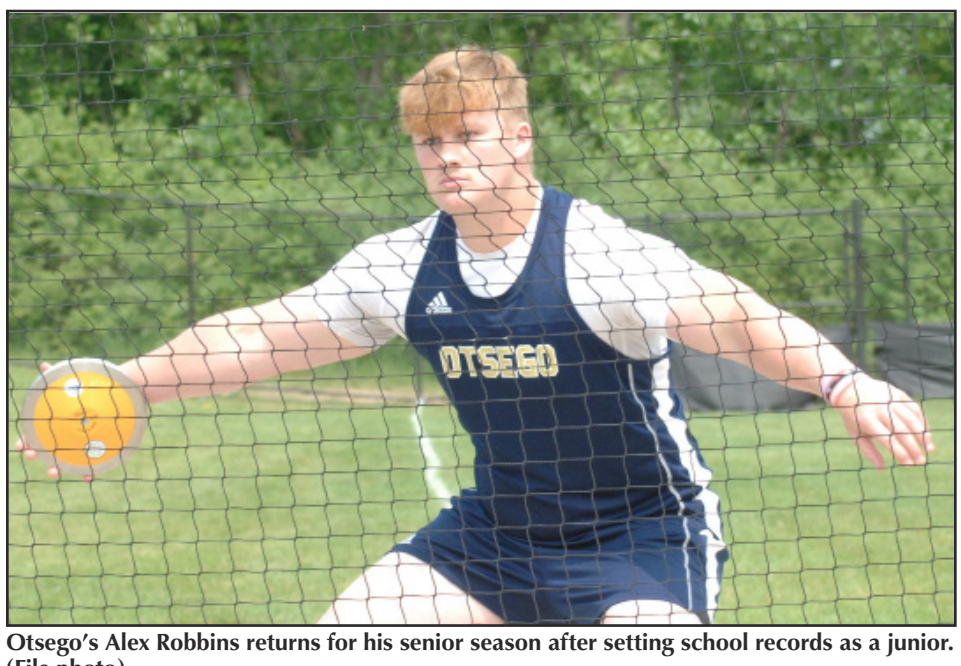
After a season in which placing near the top proved difficult, the focus this year remains on improvement and building toward long-term success.

HOPKINS

Coach: Jamie Kiss

Returning letter winners: Isaac Aalderink, jr. (throws); Vijay DeZeeuw, sr. (high jump); Jack Estelle, sr. (distance); Austin Evans, soph. (mid-distance); Kellen Ford, sr. (sprints); Noah Gibson, soph. (mid-distance); Dexter Graczyk, soph. (high jump); Matthew Guzman, jr. (mid-distance); Jace Hibma, jr. (long jump); Graycin Ingle, jr. (hurdles); Grady Johnston, soph. (distance); Oakley Jorgensen, jr. (throws); Clayton Kerber, sr. (hurdles); Luke Klinge, soph. (pole vault); Ezra Koperski, jr. (throws); Gage Martin, jr. (sprints); Kash Moored, soph. (distance); Noah Opolski, jr. (throws); Lincoln Raab, soph. (sprints); Holden Rewa, soph. (sprints);

see Boys Track, Page B2


Otsego's Alex Robbins returns for his senior season after setting school records as a junior. (File photo)

Boys Track ■ from Page B1

Isaiah Robinson, jr. (mid-distance); Gavin Schans, jr. (distance); Cole VerStrate, sr. (distance); Parker Warners, jr. (long jump).

Top newcomers: Leland Aguilera, fr. (mid-distance); Hunter DeVriendt, fr. (sprints); Joe Gamble, fr. (hurdles); Tyler Halsted, soph. (high jump); Emmett Houseman, fr. (distance); Owen Kent, fr. (mid-distance); Logan Kipen, fr. (distance); Alvaro Lopez-Arrese, sr. (sprints); Joe Osborn, fr. (throws); Wyatt Runkel, soph. (sprints); Cole Winstrom, fr. (long jump).

Season outlook: After winning the conference meet last season but finishing second overall in the OK Silver standings, Hopkins enters 2026 with its sights set on taking the next step.

"This year, we have a goal of winning the OK-Silver outright, but we recognize that it will be a challenge," coach Jamie Kiss said. "We also want to get several athletes qualified for the state meet."

A key reason for that optimism is the team's balance across events.

"Our team strength is our diversity in talents," Kiss said. "We hope to be competitive in every event, making us a well-balanced team this season."

That depth should help the Vikings remain in the mix in what Kiss expects to be a competitive conference race.

"Belding is the defending champs and looks to be pretty solid again this year," he said. "Fruitport will also likely be in the mix, as they are usually well-rounded."

Hopkins returns conference champions Kellen Ford (100, 200), Clayton Kerber (110 hurdles, 300 hurdles) and Luke Klinge (pole vault), along with a strong distance group expected to contribute significant points.

"I expect our distance program to be scoring a lot of points for us this season," Kiss said.

The Vikings went 5-2 in conference duals last season and will look to build on that success with a combination of returning talent and emerging contributors.

Now in his 19th season, Kiss believes this group has the pieces in place to contend at the top of the league standings.

MARTIN

Coaches: Damon and Caryn Blackburn

Returning letter winners: Jadon Dettman, jr. (mid-distance, distance, relays); Hunter Hayes, jr. (distance, relays); Garijulian Salvador Garcia, jr. (sprints, relays); Seth Toris, jr. (sprints, pole vault); Jeremiah VanHouten, jr. (mid-distance, relays); James Gruber, sr. (shot put, discus); Peyton Schuring-Harris, sr. (shot put, discus).

Top newcomers: Owen Haner, fr. (all-around); Seth Smith, fr. (long jump, sprints); Blake Sweeting, jr. (long jump, high jump, hurdles); Ethan Fitzpatrick, sr. (long jump, high jump); Riley Bender, fr. (hurdles).

Season outlook: Martin enters the 2026 season looking to build around a group of experienced returners while continuing to develop younger athletes.

After graduating several key contributors, the Clippers will be in a bit of a rebuilding phase, though there are still pieces in place for success.

"We did graduate a number of scoring seniors last year, so there is room for rebuilding," Damon Blackburn said. "However, we have added a few upperclassmen new to track to help with that."

Leading the way will be senior Peyton Schuring-Harris, who had an impressive debut season a year ago. He captured a regional championship in the shot put and went on to place 13th at the Division 4 state finals.

Martin also returns a strong core in the 4x800 relay, with Jadon Dettman, Hunter Hayes and Jeremiah VanHouten all back after earning a regional medal last season.

"We hope to send our past state qualifiers back to the state meet with a few more joining them for the first time," Damon Blackburn said.

Despite limited numbers, the program continues to find success through individual performances and a team-first approach.

"Our conference is always a tough one, but we do have several individuals who will do well," Damon Blackburn said.

The Clippers will also rely on continued development from a mix of newcomers and athletes new to the sport as they look to fill gaps left by graduation.

This season also marks the final one for Damon and Caryn Blackburn, who have led the program for several years.

"We coach and run the boys and girls together as one team, one family," Damon Blackburn said. "Building a cooperative and supportive spirit among all of the athletes is a key component of our program."

OTSEGO

Coach: Steve Long

Returning letter winners: Alex Robbins, sr. (shot put, discus); Alex Babin, soph. (sprints); Brody Smith (sprints, long jump); Callan Davis (hurdles); Carson Brooks (pole vault); Cole Kortokrax (sprints); David Patin (hurdles); Ethan Simpson (sprints, long jump); Zeke Andrina (sprints); Gunnar Djerf (distance); Jack Cook (sprints); Jarred Curtiss (throws); Kaleb Koestner (sprints); Kenny Sheffer (distance); Owen Gauthier (throws); Owen Meech (sprints); Roman Mitchell (sprints); Rowan McKinley (throws); Trevor Meyer (mid-distance).

Top newcomers: Cain Kortlandt (jumps, sprints); Dom Town (sprints, jumps); Gabe Conley (sprints, jumps); Garrett Simpson (sprints); George Whitaker (distance); Jack DeBoer (mid-distance); Jaylen Newell (jumps, sprints); Kingston Lennan (mid-distance); Mason Fitzpatrick (hurdles); Ryan Long (mid-distance, distance); Ryan Webber (mid-distance); Ryder Balkema (throws); Sam Cook (sprints); Victor Diaz (mid-distance); Ty Oaks (sprints, mid-distance).

Season outlook: Despite graduating a large senior class from last year's team, Otsego enters the 2026 season with a mix of experienced returners and a group of newcomers ready to contribute.

"We graduated 17 seniors last year, so we lost a lot," coach Steve Long said. "But we filled some of those holes with veterans stepping up and freshmen being able to score points in dual meets."

Long, now in his second year leading the boys track program, continues to emphasize culture as the foundation for success.

"My goals don't really change too much from year to year," he said. "We plan to work hard and create a culture of hard-working men that have fun and do their best."

That approach is supported by a roster that Long believes is well-balanced across events.

"I think we've got a well-rounded team in all areas with veterans leading the way and young athletes learning as they go," he said.

If that development continues, the Bulldogs expect to be in the mix near the top of the Wolverine Conference standings.

"I think if you're in the top two or three teams in the conference, then you're in the conversation for a conference title," Long said. "That's where I see us."

Otsego finished 5-2 in dual meets last season and placed runner-up in the conference.

With a blend of experience and emerging talent, the Bulldogs will look to build on that success this spring.

PLAINWELL

Coach: Scott Evans

Returning letter winners: Donavon Ryan, sr. (distance); Sawyer Lilly, sr. (throws); Trent Hansen, sr. (sprints); Hiro Nguyen, sr. (mid-distance); Loehn Luckett, sr. (sprints/pole vault); Trason Stephenson, sr. (field events/sprints); Matt Burke, sr. (hurdles); Will Justice, jr. (mid-distance); Kegan Quarles, soph. (sprints); Blake Boerman, soph. (hurdles/pole vault); Edwin Johnson, soph. (sprints); Bennett Ridderman, soph. (sprints); Dan Groner, soph. (sprints).

Top newcomers: Izik Lambert, fr. (sprints); Braeden Asbeury, fr. (sprints); Caleb Moran, soph. (sprints); Tanner Drenth, soph. (sprints); Landin Ramsey, soph. (distance); Wyatt Ramsey, soph. (distance); Logan Swartz, jr. (high jump); Ben White, jr. (pole vault).

Season outlook: With a mix of experienced returners and a number of new faces, Plainwell enters the 2026 season looking to find its identity in a highly competitive Wolverine Conference.

"We have a lot of returning faces and a lot of new faces," coach Scott Evans said. "With a very strong conference, every track meet will be a challenge."

One clear strength for the Trojans is numbers, as Plainwell once again features a roster of more than 60 athletes. That depth should help across multiple events, particularly in the sprints, throws and mid-distance races.

"We have some strong groups in those areas right now," Evans said. "As we try new kids in different events, the team will continue to improve."

Early-season weather has presented some challenges, especially for the field events, but Evans expects that to improve as conditions warm up and athletes gain more opportunities to train and compete outdoors.

"Field events are a little behind from where we have been in the past," he said. "But as the weather improves, we'll keep getting better."

In the conference, Evans expects Three Rivers and Otsego to be among the top contenders.

Plainwell finished 5-2 in dual meets last season and placed third at the Wolverine Conference meet. Donavon Ryan also qualified for the state finals, earning All-State honors with an eighth-place finish in the 1,600-meter run.

Now in his 20th year, Evans is focused on continued growth as the season progresses.

"As the season goes on, we expect to improve quite a bit," he said.

SAUGATUCK

Coach: Rick Bauer (18th season)

Returning letter winners: Seniors — Isaac Cruz (distance, mid-distance); Sammy Gamboa (distance, mid-distance); Johnathon Gamez (pole vault); Seth Garfinkel (throws); Peter Mitchell (sprints, long jump); Brennan Nor (sprints)

Juniors — Ian Conklin (throws); Sebastian Holstine (throws); Lincoln Leathers (pole vault, sprints); Sawyer Monroe (distance); Grant Rehkopf (distance); Marcus Silva (distance)

Sophomores — Jackson Bowman (distance); Ira Brown (distance); Tommy Bullinger (mid-distance); Lincoln Church (throws); Maison Ferm (distance); Henry Gannon (jumps, sprints); Mason Sisson (hurdles, jumps, sprints); Ashton Skinner (hurdles, pole vault); Chase Skinner (jumps, sprints)

Top newcomers: Juniors — Gabe Lauer (sprints, jumps)

Sophomores — Colton Myler (sprints); Carlos Perez (throws, sprints); Aiden Riemersma

(sprints); Max Schulz (throws)

Freshmen — Leo Avalos (distance); Simon Carr (distance); Alek Diaz (sprints); Colton Knikelbine (sprints, hurdles); Grady Palmer (sprints); Charlie Robison (sprints, hurdles)

Season Outlook:

There's a familiar feeling around the Saugatuck boys track and field program this spring—and Rick Bauer likes it.

With a mix of experienced returners and a talented, energetic group of newcomers, Bauer sees similarities between this year's team and some of the Trailblazers' most successful squads from the mid-2010s.

"So far this has been a really fun group to work with," Bauer said. "The young guys are really talented, and they genuinely support one another and get excited for each other's success."

That combination of talent and team chemistry could pay dividends for a Saugatuck team that hopes to contend for a dual meet division title while also making noise at the SAC and regional meets.

The distance events appear to be a clear strength, with seniors Isaac Cruz and Sammy Gamboa joined by a deep group that includes juniors Sawyer Monroe, Grant Rehkopf and Marcus Silva. That depth gives the Trailblazers multiple scoring options across the mid- and long-distance races.

At the same time, a young but promising group of sprinters is already turning heads. The freshman quartet of Alek Diaz, Colton Knikelbine, Grady Palmer and Charlie Robison set a school record in the 4x300 relay at the GVSU Laker Challenge, while Diaz and Robison also competed at the Nike Indoor Nationals.

"We have some young sprinters who are extremely exciting to watch," Bauer said.

For Saugatuck to reach its full potential, continued development in the hurdles and field events will be key. Bauer noted those as areas where improvement will be necessary to compete with the top teams in a loaded SAC that includes the likes of Constantine, Kalamazoo Hackett, Lawton and Parchment.

Still, with strong leadership, emerging young talent and a positive team culture, the Trailblazers appear well-positioned for a successful season.

WAYLAND

Coach: Marty Howard

Returning letter winners: **Seniors:** Jacob Crater (sprints), Ashton Kuhlman (throws), Carson Lown (pole vault), Jack Lyons (throws), Henry Maass (sprints), Ethan Manning (distance), Brock Wheeler (sprints). **Juniors:** Mason Fein (distance), Gavin Howard (high jump), Alex Hubbard (hurdles), Chance Lenhart (sprints), Alberto Mandujano (distance), Jake Reeder (sprints), Justin Springs (long jump), Xander Stepek (mid-distance).

Top newcomers: Drew Hudson, fr. (sprints); Deacon Sidebotham, sr. (high jump).

Season outlook: Coming off a conference championship season, Wayland enters the 2026 campaign with both experience and expectations.

"We are excited for the potential that this group has," coach Marty Howard said. "We have quite a few kids back with two or three years of experience."

That experience should serve the Wildcats well as they look to defend their OK Gold Conference title and remain competitive at the regional and state levels.

■ see **Boys Track**, Page B3

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Girls Soccer ■ from Page B1

in the conference, and Gray hopes his team can build on that foundation.

In terms of the conference race, Gray expects familiar contenders to once again be in the mix.

"Saugatuck and South Haven are always well-prepared and deep with athletic talent and skill," he said. "We're hoping to be right in the middle of the conference and be competitive with those top teams."

HAMILTON

There's a new voice leading the Hamilton girls soccer program this spring.

And with it comes a renewed sense of energy and optimism.

Brinley Nieuwenhuis takes over as head coach of the Hawkeyes, inheriting a team that is eager to take a step forward after last season's 4-12-1 record.

"My overall outlook on the season is very positive," Nieuwenhuis said. "We have a great group of girls who are willing to put in the extra work, work hard for each other and better themselves as soccer players and people."

Hamilton returns a solid group of players who have experience playing together, something Nieuwenhuis believes will be a key strength early in the season.

"We have returners who know how to play with each other," she said. "They understand each other's tendencies and should be able to get back into a rhythm together pretty quickly."

That returning group includes seniors Joselyn Paskvan (midfield/forward) and Zoe Heneveld (defense/goalie), along with a number of juniors in Ella Achterhof (midfield/forward), Ashlyn Brown (midfield), Zoe Hippey (defense), Leah Klein (goalie), Sierra Prince (midfield) and Emma Slotman (defense/midfield).

Sophomores Kyrza Michalak (defense), Ellery Rietema (defense/midfield) and Grace Sexton (defense/midfield) also return.

Defensively, the Hawkeyes expect to be strong.

"We have some seasoned girls on the back line who are very strong and work well together," Nieuwenhuis said.

Hamilton has also added several newcomers who could help bolster the roster, including sophomores Zoe Rabbers (defense) and Bryn Nyboer (midfield) along with freshman Maci Brott (midfield/forward).

"We've added some great players who will help with our depth," Nieuwenhuis said.

One challenge the team is currently navigating is health, as a few players are dealing with injuries early in the season.

But despite that, the goals for the season remain ambitious.

"Our goal is to be looked at as a threat this year," Nieuwenhuis said. "We want to be top three in the conference and compete to win districts."

In the OK Black, Nieuwenhuis expects Unity Christian and Holland Christian to once again be among the top teams.

Still, the Hawkeyes are focused on carving out their own place in the standings.

"We're looking to be competitive and take that next step as a program," Nieuwenhuis said.

HOPKINS

For the past few seasons, Hopkins has taken steady steps forward.

Now, the Vikings are looking to take the next one.

Coming off a 12-7-1 season that included a trip to the district finals, Hopkins enters the 2026 campaign with its sights set on both a conference championship and a deeper postseason run.

"We will be in competition for the conference title and a district title," coach John Mieras said. "We've been progressing toward that goal each year, and we see this as our year to take that next step."

A big reason for that optimism is a veteran-laden roster led by a senior class that has been playing together since their freshman year.

"The team is our strength," Mieras said. "These seniors have been on varsity for four years, and they are a group of talented individuals working toward the same goal."

That senior group includes Madi Langlois (midfield), Bridget Stark (forward), Allison Breining (midfield/forward), Allison Poll (defense), Ali Langlois (forward) and Lacy Hulst (defense/forward).

Hopkins also returns a number of key contributors from other classes, including junior goalkeeper Aliza Kerber, defenders Sutton Collier, Genesis Tuinstra, Makayla Glupker and Kallyson Bishop, and midfielder Kayla Bracelin.

Sophomore midfielder Annika Ford also returns, while freshman Claire Brenner is the lone newcomer expected to contribute at the varsity level as an outside midfielder/forward.

Mieras noted that the Vikings bring back talent across the field.

"We are returning multiple All-Conference, All-District and All-State players," he said. "That experience is spread across all positions—forward, midfield, defense and goalkeeper."

Last season, Hopkins showcased that balance, scoring 78 goals while allowing just 28.

The Vikings also pushed Allegan to a shootout in the district finals before falling.

"That experience motivates us," Mieras said.

In the OK Silver, Hopkins expects another competitive race.

"Fruitport, Calvin Christian and NorthPointe Christian are always in contention," Mieras said. "But every team in the conference is working to be competitive."

Beyond this season, the program continues to trend upward, with growing participation and players moving on to the collegiate level.

At least three seniors—Ali Langlois (Kalamazoo College), Madi Langlois (Aquinas College) and Lacy Hulst (Cornerstone)—plan to continue their soccer careers after graduation.

"We've seen interest in the program grow every year," Mieras said. "That's been a big part of building what we have."

Otsego's Peyton Dennany (15) battles for position in a game last season. (File photo)

OTSEGO

The target is clear for Otsego this season.

And it's one the Bulldogs are used to carrying.

Coming off a 16-1-1 season that included a Wolverine Conference title and a district championship, Otsego enters the 2026 campaign looking to defend both.

"We did lose a few huge players after last season, but we should still be very strong again this spring," coach Levi Butcher said. "We'll look to defend our conference title and try to get out of what is arguably the toughest Division 2 district in the state."

Otsego returns a strong and experienced core, led by a senior class that includes Constantine Taylor (defense), Allie Proctor (forward), Kara Moore (midfield) and goalkeeper Zoe Alkire.

That group is complemented by a talented junior class that has been contributing at the varsity level since day one.

Those juniors include Sydney Timmons (midfield), Maddie Ragan (defense), Ruby Gerst (midfield), Peyton Johnson (forward), Peyton Dennany (forward), Addi Pfefferman (defense) and Olivia Witteveen (midfield).

"We have a great senior group and a core of excellent juniors who have been big pieces of our team since their freshman year," Butcher said.

Newcomers Valeria Verdin (forward), Mya Engbers (midfield) and Cam Guerrant (defense) have also impressed early and could provide valuable depth.

One of Otsego's biggest strengths once again figures to be its ability to control possession and limit scoring opportunities for opponents.

"We possess the ball and create chances exceptionally well," Butcher said. "And it's going to be tough for teams to score on us again with three starting defenders and our goalkeeper returning."

Still, there are areas the Bulldogs will look to address.

"We have to figure out how to fill the gaps left by last year's seniors," Butcher said. "They left some big shoes to fill, and we'll need some of our younger players to step in and provide depth as they continue to develop."

Butcher would also like to see his team capitalize more on set-piece opportunities.

"We have the ability to create more chances in those situations," he said.

In the Wolverine Conference, Otsego once again expects to be among the teams to beat, though the path to another title won't be easy.

"I think we're still at the top of the pile, but Vicksburg and Plainwell are going to give us good tests," Butcher said.

And beyond the conference race, the postseason presents another major challenge.

"With teams like Gull Lake, South Christian, Plainwell and Middleville in our district, there are going to be a lot of tough games," Butcher said. "Most of those matchups will be dogfights."

Alayna Eldred (20) is back for her senior season at Plainwell. (File photo)

PLAINWELL

Plainwell has the pieces in place to be a contender once again this season.

With a mix of experienced seniors, talented underclassmen and strength across all areas of the field, the Trojans enter the 2026 campaign with high expectations.

"We return a lot of experience," coach Garry Snyder said. "We have a very solid goalkeeper and defensive group, a quality midfield and some explosive players up top. This should be a fun group to watch."

Leading the way offensively is senior Alayna Eldred, the team's top returning goal scorer who brings both speed and toughness to the attack.

She is joined up front by a number of players who can create scoring opportunities, including Lucy Benson, Ella Brydges and Anna Eldred.

In the midfield, Plainwell features a deep and versatile group, including Shea Hodapp, Teighlor Nooney, Sophia Petersen, Caitlyn Ridgeway, Aubrie Witt and Alyssa Weldon.

"Alyssa is determined and ready to step into a key role at center midfield," Snyder said, noting the importance of the midfield in connecting play across the field.

Defensively, the Trojans return a strong and experienced unit anchored by Ella Petik, who returns from injury, along with Anna Schierbeek, Alison Taylor and Emma Taylor.

"They'll be a key part of what we do defensively and in linking up with the midfield," Snyder said.

In goal, Olivia Ranger provides a steady presence.

"She's confident and determined back there," Snyder said.

Plainwell also welcomes several newcomers who could make an impact, including Raygan Truitt and Leigha Weldon.

"Raygan is very skilled and has great vision and awareness," Snyder said. "Leigha is quick, works hard and has a good feel for the game."

With a strong blend of experience and youth, Snyder is optimistic about the group's potential.

"This senior group is motivated and ready, and we have some very good underclassmen," he said. "If we stay healthy, we should have a successful season."

In the Wolverine Conference, Plainwell expects to be in the mix for a title, though the competition will be tough.

"Otsego and Vicksburg will be strong, and there are several good teams in the conference," Snyder said.

The postseason presents another challenge, with a loaded district that includes South Christian, Gull Lake, Otsego, Middleville and Plainwell.

Still, with experience, depth and playmakers throughout the lineup, the Trojans have the potential to be a factor as the season unfolds.

WAYLAND

A new chapter is beginning for the Wayland girls soccer program this spring.

With Miguel Arriaga taking over as head coach, the Wildcats enter the 2026 season focused on building a foundation for long-term success.

"This year is about development—both individually and as a team," Arriaga said. "We want to establish a style of play, a different approach to the game and a winning culture that the Wayland community can be proud of."

Wayland returns a solid group of upperclassmen who will help lead that transition.

That group includes seniors Katara Gast (midfield), Elliot Mass (midfield) and Charlotte Crampton (forward), along with juniors Ella Edwards (defense), Payton Naegele (midfield), Addie Wallace (goalkeeper), Macy Schwartz (forward) and Kaleigh Marquard (defense).

"We have a great group of upperclassmen," Arriaga said. "They've done a good job setting the tone and helping guide the younger players."

Those younger players include a number of newcomers who could make an immediate impact, including freshmen Selah Bailey (forward), Paris Ortiz (forward) and Ailey Schaefer (defense), as well as sophomore Hannah Usselman (forward).

"We also have an energetic group of younger players who bring talent and enthusiasm," Arriaga said. "That combination gives us a chance to grow every day."

While results will matter, Arriaga said the primary focus will be on steady improvement throughout the season.

"Our goal is to continue getting better as the season goes along," he said. "If we stay committed to the process, the results will follow."

In a competitive conference, Wayland is aiming to take steps forward and challenge established programs.

"The conference is solid, and we want to improve our standing each game and compete with the top teams," Arriaga said. "We want to be a tough team to play against."

For Arriaga, who brings more than 25 years of coaching experience, this season also represents a fresh start.

"I've coached at a lot of levels, but this is my first year in Michigan," he said. "I'm excited to build something here and show what our program can become."

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Saugatuck prior to deadline.*

Boys Track ■ from Page B2

"We should be able to be in a battle to repeat as OK Gold Conference champs," Howard said. "We also have some kids that should be able to compete at the Division 2 Finals."

Wayland's strength lies in its depth on the track, particularly in the sprinting and distance events, where multiple returners have varsity experience.

"We have a solid group on the track," Howard said.

Finding depth in certain field events will be an area of focus as the season progresses, particularly in the hurdles, long jump and high jump.

"We need to build some depth in those areas," Howard said.

In the conference race, Howard expects a tight battle at the top.

"I think it will be between us, South Christian and Northview," he said.

Wayland captured the OK Gold title last season, placed third at regionals, earned a spot at the MITCA Team State meet and finished 13th overall at the Division 2 state finals.

Now entering his 23rd season, Howard believes this year's group has the pieces in place to build on that success.

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Allegan or Hamilton prior to deadline.*

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

April 12, 1951

Awe Gives Way To Anger As The News Sinks In: The news hit Allegan county residents with the impact of a falling brick wall.

One Gazette reader got the publisher out of bed early Wednesday morning with a telephone call. "They've fired MacArthur," was all he could say.

His voice, filled with awe and such a thing could be, was echoed in the echoes a thousand times in the homes that followed.

Everywhere you went, people could talk of nothing but the fact that MacArthur had been relieved of command by President Truman.

After the first shock wore off people became more coherent.

This was separate to the sheep from the goats. It's time to stand and be counted," said one man.

"He was the only man who knew what was going on over there," said another.

"It's time for another Boston Tea Party," said one who believed Truman gave in to England.

April 8, 1976

Hopkins FFA'ers get B.O.A.C. award: Hopkins High School's FFA team was one of 14 in the state presented Building Our American Community (B.O.A.C.) awards recently during the 48th annual State FFA Convention at Michigan State University.

The award is made to FFA chapters that are active in community projects.

Six Hopkins FFA members attended the convention with Tom Green and Ralph Hansen serving as top delegates and representatives to the state business meeting. Bruce Brenner, Doug Steffens, Jeff Lenhart, and Chuck Wamhoff earned state FFA degrees, while Burton Brenner received a beef proficiency award and Steffens an agricultural placement proficiency award.

Wamhoff was presented an award for high scholastic achievement and John Watson received the Alpha Gamma Rho outstanding junior award.

April 12, 2001

It's not the library grandparents used in the '60s: If you are not a regular library attendee, there's a possibility that you have a misconception of what the library of today is like.

Hopkins FFA members, from left, John Watson, Bruce Brenner, Doug Steffens, Burton Brenner, Tom Green, and Ralph Hansen, were all presented awards at the 48th annual State FFA Convention at Michigan State University.

Those who haven't been to the library since childhood may remember going to the card catalog for a book on Africa and finding it already checked out by other procrastinators who rushed to finish their report. Or maybe visions of a stern Miss Mariani shushing might drift through your mind. Kristy Motz, library director of Fennville District Library, replaces these fictional illustrations with a bit of nonfiction.

"Library has gone way beyond the walls," said Motz. "It used to be what was on the shelves was what you got."

One of the major advancements of libraries is the use of interlibrary loans. Fennville is one of nine libraries in Allegan County that belongs to the Lakeland Library Cooperation. Allegan Public Library, Ransom District Library of Plainwell and Otsego Public Library belong to the Southwest Library Co-op. LLC is a co-op that operates out of Grand Rapids with 42 libraries in 81 locations in eight counties. Interlibrary loans provide websites so that patrons can view the book supply of all of the participating libraries and order books that do not currently exist in the local library. The requested material will be shipped to the nearest library free of charge and may then be checked out by the patron. One can access interlibrary loans by going to the library or on any personal computer at home.

Motz said that the Fennville District Library is the "only public access to computers in Fennville." Fennville, along with Allegan and Hopkins libraries, qualified for Bill and Melinda Gates Computers.

The computers are available for email, references and Internet access. One can even create his/her own resume. A patron is allowed two 30-minute sessions in one day. Business people, missionaries and college kids frequently utilize these services. One thing Motz said she learned was to encourage people who have never touched a computer to play a game. This allows people to familiarize themselves with the way the mouse works.

April 15, 2021

Glenn School prepares to break ground on new addition: Recognized as the oldest, continuous rural school district by the State of Michigan, Glenn School District in Glenn, Michigan is ready to expand their current facility by adding a multipurpose room and secure entry area complete with new offices. Arriving at the current groundbreaking has not been without struggles, but Glenn School's history has been filled with challenges that have been overcome.

In March of 2019, pre-COVID-19, the district began a feasibility study to determine if an addition to the current school was possible. The goal was to add a space where larger groups could gather, while offering space for specials teachers (physical education, music and art), visiting presenters, and pullout meetings for special education specialists and other small groups.

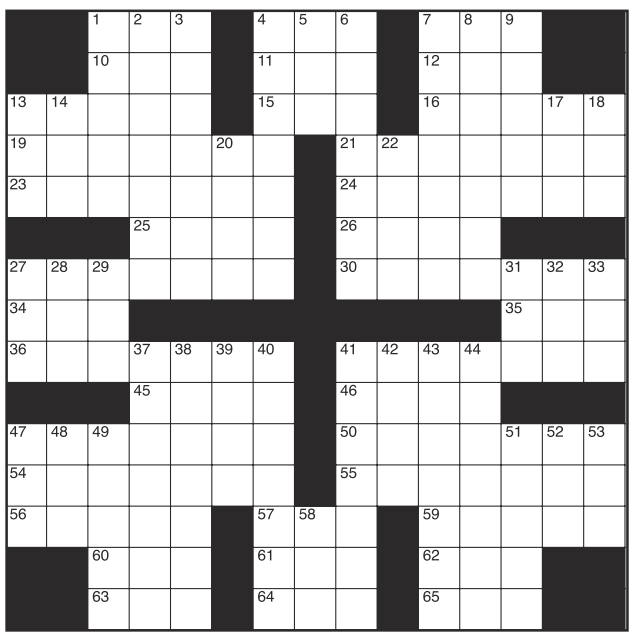
The new 1192 square feet extending from the southside of the existing structure would ensure that students and staff will not have to utilize corners of the current building, local facilities and outdoor spaces for classes and programs. Plus, specialists will not have to meet with students in areas like the kitchen, coat room or hallway. In addition, people would enter a secured entry hall and vestibule with new administrative offices.

In March 2020, the school district put their bond proposal on the ballot in Ganges Township. On March 11th, Glenn School's Facebook read, "Everyone at Glenn School appreciates the support of our community in passing our bond proposal. Thank you to everyone who voted."

Roggow Construction of St. Joseph is working with Wightman Engineering Services located in Allegan, Benton Harbor and Kalamazoo to complete the construction of the wood frame addition with a masonry exterior. Groundbreaking is scheduled for mid-April with completion expected at the end of July.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Health care pros
4. A person inhabiting Benin
7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
10. Split pulses
11. Frozen water
12. Small constellation
13. Perennial mountain rice
15. Pick up
16. Japanese historical period
19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
21. Unattached
23. Fishing port in SE France
24. Products for dogs
25. One point south of southeast
26. Having the skill or resources to do something
27. Involve oneself deeply
30. Immobile
34. __ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
35. Move quickly on foot
36. Gathered
41. A way through
45. Another name for Thor
46. Sharp dueling sword
47. The supreme commander of a fleet
50. Seasoned sausages
54. Path
55. Christian hermit
56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
57. Where wrestlers go to work
59. Roman statesman
60. Explosive
61. Licensed for Wall Street
62. Where golfers start
63. Grow old
64. Autonomic nervous system
65. No seats available

CLUES DOWN
1. A legally binding command
2. General feeling of discomfort
3. Dribble
4. Soft touch
5. South American plant
6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
8. Lines created by folding
9. Strong belief
13. Senior officer
14. Adult
17. Joint entrance examination in India
18. Passports and driversÕ licenses are two
20. Those who go against an accepted authority
22. One point east of northeast
27. Journalist Tarbell
28. OneÕs mother (British)
29. Nowhere to be found
31. A way to save for old age
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. The work of a sailor
38. Mark with striae
39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
40. Sticky situation
41. Monetary units of Spain
42. Three-banded armadillo
43. Chooses
44. More disreputable
47. Defensive nuclear weapon
48. ÒThe Partridge FamilyÓ actress Susan
49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
52. OJ trial judge
53. Politician
58. Airborne (abbr.)

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Deaths

Feb. 13, 2026
LINDA MAY JOHNSON, 74, Ganges Twp.
March 13, 2026
ROBERT STANLEY MORGAN JR, 61, Trowbridge
March 17, 2026
NORMAN JAMES GAUTHIER, 72, Lee Twp.
March 18, 2026
JEFFREY SCOTT SPEER, 55, Holland
JON WILLIAMS SCHROTENBOER, 91, Heath Twp.
March 21, 2026
BRENDA LOU WORKMAN, 75, Otsego
March 22, 2026
DONALD LEE DEATER JR, 62, Laketown Twp.
March 24, 2026
NANCY JO HEFFNER, 83, Martin Twp.
JOSEPH ALLEN LARSON SR, 83, Leighton Twp.
JOHN RAYMOND VANGOOR, 86, Dorr Twp.
SHIRLEY ANN BOSCH, 90, Holland
MARJORIE EILEEN STREUR, 89, Holland
Marcg 25, 2026
NANCY KAY KOETSIER, 82, Salem Twp.
March 26, 2026
DONALD CALLAWAY MACDONALD, 74, Laketown Twp
March 28, 2026
TED RAY HUGHES JR, 58, Plainwell
March 30, 2026
MICHAEL JAMES SERR, 83, Saugatuck Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between March 24 and April 1:

AMY MARIE COLLINS, South Haven, and **JEFFREY LYNN VICKERS**, South Haven
NICHOLAS BOLTON SMITH, Martin, and **HEAVEN LEIGH ODELL**, Martin
CONNOR DAVID DETERS, Allegan, and **AMELIA ROSE HOEKSEMA**, Hamilton
MITCHELL RAY ELHART, Dorr, and **MORGHAN MARIE VANDYKE**, Zeeland
STEPHANIE MORENO-JIMENEZ, Plainwell, and **CHRISTOPHER MICHEAL SPOHN**, Bangor
JEFFREY MICHAEL SHARRARD, Allegan, and **LISA ANN BRADFORD**, Allegan

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

							6	2
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	8	5						
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9	2				1		5	
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(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Rayheim R. Robinson, single man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Hancock Mortgage Partners, LLC dated September 29, 2022 and recorded September 30, 2022 in Instrument Number 2022008529 St. Joseph County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Planet Home Lending, LLC by assignment. In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief entered for Plaintiff, Planet Home Lending, LLC against Defendant, Rayheim R. Robinson in Case No. 25-375-CH of St. Joseph County Circuit Court, the below premises shall be foreclosed and sold by public auction. Said Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief was entered on the 16th day of January, 2026, wherein there is claimed to be due on said date the sum of One Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Seventy Cents ($171,349.70), plus sums advanced for taxes, insurance and other fees incurred and allowed by said mortgage. Under the Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief and related statutes, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgage premises pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief and that the sale shall be at public auction to the highest bidder, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within St. Joseph County, on the 30th day of April, 2026 at 10:00 AM, Eastern Standard Time, the following described property, viz: All certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Village of White Pigeon, County of St. Joseph and State of Michigan, described as follows: PARCEL 1: THAT PART OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 12 WEST, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF CHICAGO STREET 10 FEET WESTERLY OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 34 OF THE VILLAGE OF WHITE PIGEON, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN, IN LIBER A OF DEEDS, PAGE 16; THENCE WESTERLY ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF CHICAGO STREET 96.4 FEET; THENCE NORTH 160 FEET; THENCE NORTH 86° EAST TO A POINT 10 FEET, ON SAID LINE, FROM THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 33 OF SAID PLAT; THENCE SOUTH 04° EAST 159.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TAX ID# 75-045-777-007-01 PARCEL 2: LOT 33 OF THE VILLAGE OF WHITE PIGEON, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN, IN LIBER A OF DEEDS, PAGES 15 AND 16. ASLO, COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 33, THENCE WESTERLY ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 33 EXTENDED, 10 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY, PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 33 TO NORTHERLY LINE OF LOT 33 EXTENDED; THENCE EASTERLY TO NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 33; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 33 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING DESCRIBED ON THE COUNTY TAX ROLL AS: LOT 33, ALSO STRIP 10 WIDE ADJOINING LOT 33 ON WEST SIDE, ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF WHITE PIGEON. TAX ID # 75-045-200-037-00 Commonly Known As: 300 W Chicago Road, White Pigeon, MI, 49099 and 207 N Melody Street, White Pigeon, Michigan 49099 Tax ID: 75 045 777 007 01 and 75 045 200 037 00 This property may be redeemed during the six (6) months following the sale. Dated: February 27, 2026 Orlans Law Group PLLC /s/ Sogol I. Plagany Attorneys for Plaintiff Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 File No. 25-006493

(03-06)(04-10)

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 A.M., on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Timothy L. Arndt Sr., ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Ignite Credit Union, successor by merger with Allegan Credit Union, fka Allegan Community Federal Credit Union., ("Mortgagee"), dated January 25, 2021, and recorded on May 31, 2023, in Liber 4860, on Page 25, Allegan County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Forty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Six Dollars and 44/100 Dollars ($46,606.44) plus accrued interest at 5.99% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan @ 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Said premises are situated in the Township of Monterey, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 Corner of said Section; thence North 89 degrees, 24 minutes West 550.00 feet along the South line of said SW 1/4; thence North 00 degrees, 18 minutes 41 seconds East 718.53 feet to the place of beginning; thence North 89 degrees, 24 minutes 00 seconds West 397.05 feet; thence North 02 degrees, 41 minutes 54 seconds East 233.0 feet; thence North 39 degrees 18 minutes 08 seconds West 145.94 feet; thence North 03 degrees, 51 minutes 54 seconds East 334.78 feet; thence South 89 degrees, 24 minutes 00 seconds East 297.65 feet; thence South 00 degrees, 18 minutes 41 seconds West 521.57 feet; thence South 89 degrees 24 minutes 00 seconds East 162.00 feet; thence S 00 degrees, 18 minutes, 41 seconds West 157.47 feet to the place of beginning. Together with an easement for Ingress and egress and utility purposes over a 66 foot wide strip of land the centerline of which is described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 Corner of Section 2, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, thence North 89 degrees, 24 minutes West 977.0 feet along the South line of said Section to the place of beginning of the centerline of said easement; thence North 02 degrees, 41 minutes, 54 seconds East 952.0 feet; thence North 39 degrees, 18 minutes 06 seconds West 145.94 feet; thence North 03 degrees 51 minutes 54 seconds East 334.78 feet; thence South 84 degrees, 25 minutes 06 seconds East 430.0 feet to the place of ending of said easement. Commonly: 3429 Arndts Dr., Hopkins, MI 49328—Tax Id #16-002-030-90 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: March 19, 2026 Ignite Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340

(03-19)(04-16)

Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM on April 16, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Chad Hudson and Tara Hudson, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, AS NOMINEE FOR VAN DYK MORTGAGE CORPORATION Date of mortgage: November 10, 2016 Recorded on November 21, 2016, Book 4089, on Page 441. Foreclosing Assignee: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Thirty-Seven and 49/100 Dollars ($164,037.49) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Hopkins, ALLEGAN County and described as: UNIT 4, EAST LAKE RIDGE, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2025, PAGE 434, ALLEGAN COUNTY RECORDS, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO AND DESIGNATED AS ALLEGAN COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 142, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN SAID MASTER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED. Commonly known as 2258 N EAST LAKE RD HOPKINS MI 49328 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 26-001818

(03-19)(04-09)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on MAY 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gary L Burnett, Jr. and Amber Burnett, to National City Mortgage, a division of National City Bank, Mortgagee, dated October 2, 2007 and recorded October 16, 2007 in Liber 3168, Page 933 Allegan County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Six and 50/100 Dollars ($66,486.50).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on MAY 7, 2026.

Said premises are located in the City of Otsego, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 75 of Raven's Addition to the Village (now City) of Otsego, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof.

309 Mckinley Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.

Dated: March 19, 2026

File No. 26-000602

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-19)(04-09)

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 A.M., on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Elyse Suzanne Turley and Ronald Masters, wife and husband, ("Mortgagors"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated January 28, 2022, and recorded on February 2, 2022, in Liber 4726, on Page 322, Allegan County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and 01/100 Dollars ($37,132.01) plus accrued interest at 9.250% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan @ 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lots 8 and 9, Block D, HOMESTEAD ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF OTSEGO, as recorded in Liber 2, Page 22 of Plats, Allegan County Records. Commonly: 532 E Morell St., Otsego, MI 49078—Tax Id #54-454-009-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: April 2, 2026 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340

(04-02)(04-30)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
57th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Allegan COUNTY
ORDER REGARDING
ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO. 25-03866-SP and
JUDGE Judge: SKOCELAS

Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone no.

Maria McCartney Trustee of Integrity Solo 401K

c/o Plaintiff's Counse

Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.

SOTTILE AND BARILE, LLC
David C. Nalley (P82119), Franco Barile (P69468), & Anthony Schievelbein (P88196),
394 Wards Corner Road, Suite 180, Loveland, OH 45140
440.572.1511 / foreclosure@sottileandbarile.com

v

Defendant's name, address, and telephone no.

Jeannette M. Meade
357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078
Nathan T. Clark
357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078
Unknown Occupant(s), if any
357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078

THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon the defendant, Nathan T. Clark, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.107(B)(1)(b) and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED:

2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).

a. 357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078

d. Other: Publication in the Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks

/s/ Joseph Skocelas (P31714)
March 2, 2026
4-2 4-16

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given

NOTICE

OF PUBLIC HEARING

City of Allegan Property Sale

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Allegan, Michigan, shall on April 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers, Allegan City Hall 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, Michigan, hold a public hearing for the purpose of considering the sale of real property as follows:

Sale of the following property on North Street with a parcel number 51-280-018-00 to ND Community Partners:

Legal Description – E 138 FT OF LOT 10 MEAS ALG NORTH ST RUSSELL'S FRACTION.

At that time and place, the City Council shall hear and consider comments, concerns, statements, information, or other communications concerning the proposed property sale. Please send all written comments to the address listed below.

Carol Canales, Deputy Clerk
City of Allegan
231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan MI 49010
(269) 673-5511

Allegan County Sheriff's Office

Public Notice of Intent to Dispose of Firearms

The following is a list of firearms in evidence at the Sheriff's Office. If no valid ownership claim is received within (30) days of the date of public notice, the firearms listed will be disposed of. Please Note: These firearms are not for sale.

If you have a valid claim to any of these firearms, and are authorized to possess firearms, contact Lt. Mike Brown.

Contact Information:
Lt. Mike Brown
640 River St, Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0500 X-4592 or mbrown@allegancounty.org.

Complaint#	Make	Model	Caliber	Serial#
22506-21	Ruger	Mod LC9s pistol	9mm	329-73680
7666-21	Beretta	Mod Nano pistol	9mm	NU028595
3210-20	Remington	Mod 870 shotgun	12ga	1172014V
19305-21	Maverick Arms	Mod 88 shotgun	12ga	MV18705B
15114-20	KSA	Mod Crickett rifle	22lr	CPR-12742
15114-20	Walther	Mod CCP pistol	9mm	WK121927
4706-20	SCCY	Mod CPX-1 pistol	9mm	708029
13663-19	S&W	Mod 64 revolver	.38	CHM5231
22506-21	Ruger	Mod LC9s pistol	9mm	329-73680
7383-19	Taurus	Mod PT111 pistol	9mm	TKS29467
5420-20	Sig-Sauer	Mod P365 pistol	9mm	66A721103
3338-21	Glock	Mod 42 pistol	.380	AAVH688
15986-18	Remington	Mod Sportsman 58 shotgun	12ga	71772V
15986-18	Winchester	Mod Ranger 120 shotgun	12ga	L1988970
15019-18	Mossberg	Mod slug barrel shotgun	12ga	R348067
12038-20	Hi-Point	Mod CF380 pistol	.380	P8068978
19121-21	S&W	Mod SD9VE pistol	9mm	FBV4718
13981-21	SCCY	Mod CPX-2 pistol	9mm	768422
5914-12	Hawes Fire Arms	Mod single action revolver	22lr	462002
2202-12	Taurus	Mod PT 1911 pistol	.45acp	NAM78120
8846-21	CZ	Mod P10 S pistol	9mm	UC02746
12996-21	Sig Sauer	Mod P320 pistol	9mm	58J041463
19305-21	Italy	Black powder revolver	.44	209290
12703-19	Kahr	Mod CM40 pistol	.40	JN0593
12703-19	Colt	Mod Automatic pistol	.25	43915
22215-21	S&W	Mod 64-8 revolver	.38spl	CXB6227
20190-21	Taurus	Mod G2c pistol	9mm	ACC725158

Complaint#	Make	Model	Caliber	Serial#
6522-20	Taurus	Mod 2" revolver	.38spl	MT87400
5663-20	Heritage	Mod Rough Rider revolver	22lr	HZ61147
3625-19	S&W	Mod Shield pistol w. laser	9mm	LFL9487
13878-20	Taurus	Mod G3 pistol	9mm	AAL070734
6765-20	Taurus	Mod G2c pistol	9mm	TMS69742
4733-21	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P1754667
18501-21	Ruger	Mod Wrangler revolver	22lr	201-62618
9574-21	Ruger	Mod P95DC pistol	9mm	314-03079
19361-20	RIA	Mod M1911A 380 pistol	.380	RIA2091730
5128-19	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P1851123
12456-19	Ruger	Mod LC9s pistol	9mm	452-75644
1978-19	S&W	M&P45 pistol	.45acp	NBA4941
15639-19	Colt	Mod 1991A1 pistol	.45acp	2704048
15839-19	S&W	Mod M&P Shield pistol	.40cal	HLL8282
2952-22	Taurus	Mod G2c pistol	9mm	TMB27988
11777-22	Beretta	Mod 21A pistol	.25	DAA222493
15193-22	Heritage Mfg	Mod Rough Rider revolver	.22lr	1BH523051
12089-22	Beretta	Mod 92FS pistol	9mm	L49359Z
7245-22	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P10018219
23740-22	S&W	Mod Bodyguard380 pistol	.380	EAT4040
6009-22	Taurus	Mod G2c pistol	9mm	ACK406995
23432-22	SCCY	Mod CPX-1 pistol	9mm	C022797
13403-22	Ruger	Mod LCP pistol	.380	373-39693
805-22	H&K	Mod USP compact pistol	9mm	27-170368
805-22	New England	Mod Pardner shotgun	20ga	NV259217
19216-22	SCYY	Mod CPX-2 pistol	9mm	C104486
14519-22	Taurus	Mod G3c pistol	9mm	ABH840831
22895-22	Taurus	Mod G2c pistol	9mm	ADD205452
12175-17	New England	Mod single shot shotgun	16ga	815234
15277-17	Remington	Mod 11-48 shotgun	12ga	5058824
14518-17	Mossberg	Mod 88 Maverick shotgun	12ga	MV0027331
8729-17	Mossberg	Mod Gamester shotgun	12ga	J384107
8729-17	Remington	Mod 870 Magnum shotgun	12ga	W631783M
1299-17	Stevens	Mod 94 shotgun	20ga	0511161
21613-17	Stevens	Mod 954 rifle	.22lr	L283213
21613-17	Winchester	Mod 1300 shotgun	12ga	L3133144
8431-17	Stevens	Mod 940E shotgun	12ga	none

Public Notices

under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Peter J. Gavrun, surviving tenant, unmarried, whose address is 1091 Bridge Road, Allegan, Michigan 49010, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, being a mortgage dated March 11, 2018, and recorded on April 6, 2018 in Liber 4234 Page 930, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 2, 2023 and recorded on November 2, 2023 in Liber 4899 Page 323, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY AND 58/100 DOLLARS ($82,270.58). Said premises are situated in the Township of Trowbridge, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH 1/8 POST OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH 1/8 LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST 1/4 1710.00 FEET TO THE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ON SAID 1/8 LINE 307.79 FEET, THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 240.05 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 313.17 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 240.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 1091 Bridge Road, Allegan, Michigan 49010 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: April 2, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490) Johnson, Blumberg & Associates LLC 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 312.541.9710 - Phone 312.541.9711 - Fax File No.: MI 26 7088
(04-02)(04-23)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE Hon. Michael L. Buck
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Clarence Richard Keesee Date of Birth:* 07/03/1944
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Clarence Richard Keesee, died XXX .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Vicki Genther, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
4/6/2026
Vicki Genther
1714 39th St.
Allegan MI 49010

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: DAVID DUSTIN KOSTER AND TAYLOR LYNN KOSTER has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 12,2026 AT 10:15 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of:
DAVID DUSTIN KOSTER to DAVID DUSTIN KOWAL and
TAYLOR LYNN KOSTER to TAYLOR LYNN KOWAL

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor of Just A Mere Road LLC, Albert Blommaert Jr., of Saugatuck, Michigan, died on November 10, 2023. There is no personal representative of the settlor's Estate to

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To: The residents and property owners of the Trowbridge Township, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Trowbridge Township Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance No. 2026-02 at a regular board meeting held on April 2, 2026. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATORY ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the use of property in the Township for short-term rentals to strike an appropriate balance between the interests of community residents, community business owners, visitors to the community, and real property owners wishing to engage in Short-Term Rental of Single-Family Dwellings.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS. This Section defines the terms and phrases as they are used throughout the Ordinance.

SECTION III. APPLICABILITY. This Ordinance shall apply only to Short-Term Rentals in the Township.

SECTION IV. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. This Section provides that all short-term rentals must be registered with the Township and requires annual renewal, directs the Board to set an annual renewal fee, sets forth application requirements, and states that the Township shall provide an application form to submit all the required information.

SECTION V. SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS. This Section provides regulations for the following pertaining to short-term rentals: emergency services contacts; maximum occupancy; smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors; zoning compliance; attics and basements; inspections; street number markers; insurance; notice of Township rules and policies; and trash receptacles.

SECTION VI. VIOLATIONS; REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION. This Section provides that a violation of the Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction, provides penalties for violations, and provides a procedure for revocation of a short-term rental registration in certain situations.

SECTION VII. SEVERABILITY. This Section holds each section of the Ordinance to be separate from one another providing that if one section is found to be invalid, such a finding would not impact the validity of the remaining sections of the Ordinance.

SECTION VIII. REPEAL. This Sections provides that all other ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts of ordinances herewith in effect that are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION IX. EFFECTIVE DATE. The Ordinance takes effect 30 days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Trowbridge Township at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
Dave Smalla, Clerk
913 M-40 South, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-8189

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To: The residents and property owners of the Trowbridge Township, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Trowbridge Township Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance No. 2026-01 at a regular board meeting held on April 2, 2026. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. NAME AND PURPOSE. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Trowbridge Township Truck Route Ordinance" and the purpose of this Ordinance is to establish truck routes and prohibit truck traffic on certain roads to protect the road infrastructure and mitigate the negative effects of truck traffic on the community.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. This Section defines the terms and phrases as they are used throughout the Ordinance.

SECTION 3. DESIGNATION OF TRUCK ROUTES. This Section designates certain roads within the Township as "truck routes", to the exclusion of all other roads.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITION AGAINST TRAVEL ON OTHER THAN TRUCK ROUTES. This Section provides that truck traffic is not permitted on any road not expressly designated as a truck route under this Ordinance. This Section also designates segments of certain roads as "no through" zones.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTIONS. This Section provides that the truck route limitations do not apply to certain types of vehicles such as emergency service vehicles, and garbage collection vehicles, among other types of vehicles.

SECTION 6. DELIVERIES, SERVICE CALLS. This Section permits vehicles otherwise subject to the truck route limitations to make pick-ups, deliveries, and service calls, that would otherwise cause the driver to travel on roads not designated for truck travel, subject to certain conditions.

SECTION 7. LEAVING OR RETURNING TO HOME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS. This Section provides that this Ordinance does not prohibit someone from returning their truck to their place of home or business, provided the owner takes the most direct path to and from designated truck routes.

SECTION 8. SIGNS. This Section provides that the Township shall be responsible for procuring and having signs posted in the relevant locations. The Township shall notify the Road Commission about the adoption of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL PERMITS. This Section permits the Township Board to grant special permits to exempt trucks and drivers from the provisions of this Ordinance for no more than one (1) round trip. This Section also allows the Board to set a fee for special permits.

SECTION 10. VIOLATION AND PENALTY. This Section provides that a violation of the Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction, and permits the imposition of a fine or other appropriate remedy for violations.

SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY. This Section holds each section of the Ordinance to be separate from one another providing that if one section is found to be invalid, such a finding would not impact the validity of the remaining sections of the Ordinance.

SECTION 12. REPEAL. This Sections provides that all other ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts of ordinances herewith in effect that are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE. The Ordinance takes effect 30 days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Trowbridge Township at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
Dave Smalla, Clerk
913 M-40 South, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-8189

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To: The residents and property owners of the Trowbridge Township, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Trowbridge Township Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance No. 2026-03 at a regular board meeting held on April 2, 2026. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS

SECTION I. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3.20 – "S" OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE. This Section amends Chapter 3, Section 3.20 – "S" of the Township Zoning Ordinance to insert a definition for the term "Short-Term Rental", in alphabetical order, to read as follows:

"Short-Term Rental. The rental of any single-family dwelling for a term of less than 28 days in any calendar year; the definition does not include the use of campgrounds, hotel rooms, transitional housing operated by a non-profit entity, group homes such as nursing homes and adult foster care homes, hospitals, or housing provided by a substance-abuse rehabilitation clinic, mental-health facility, or other health-care related clinic."

SECTION II. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 8 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TITLED "FIRE LANES & PRIVATE ROADS PERMITTED." This Section amends Chapter 8, Section 8.03, subsection "A." of the Township Zoning Ordinance to read as follows:

"A. Parks, playgrounds, community centers and campgrounds, governmental, administrative, Short-Term Rentals, or service buildings."

SECTION III. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 5 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TITLED "AG AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT." This Section amends Chapter 5, Section 5.03 of the Township Zoning Ordinance to add a new subdivision "H." to the list of special exception uses for the AG Agricultural Zoning District, to read as follows:

H. Short-Term Rentals.
SECTION IV. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 6 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TITLED "R-1 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT." This Section amends Chapter 6, Section 6.03 of the Township Zoning Ordinance to add a new subdivision "I." to the list of special exception uses for the R-1 Rural Residential Zoning District, to read as follows:

I. Short-Term Rentals.
SECTION V. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 7 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TITLED "R-2 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT." This Section amends Chapter 7, Section 7.03 of the Township Zoning Ordinance to add a new subdivision "F." to the list of special exception uses for the R-2 Rural Residential Zoning District, to read as follows:

F. Short-Term Rentals.
SECTION VI. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 15 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TITLED "SPECIAL USES." This Section amends Chapter 15, Section 15.22, titled "Solar Energy Collector", to change the title to "S", and to add the following regulations for short-term rentals and solar energy collectors:

Short-Term Rentals: lighting; parking; signage; recreational burns (wood and gas burning); tents; and accessory uses.

Solar Energy Collector: purpose; definition; location; personal; facility/utility; abandonment/decommissioning; and screening.

SECTION VII. SEVERABILITY. This Section holds each section of the Ordinance to be separate from one another providing that if one section is found to be invalid, such a finding would not impact the validity of the remaining sections of the Ordinance.

SECTION VIII. REPEAL. This Sections provides that all other ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts of ordinances herewith in effect that are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION IX. EFFECTIVE DATE. The Ordinance takes effect 8 days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Trowbridge Township at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
Dave Smalla, Clerk
913 M-40 South, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-8189

Public Notices

whom Letters of Administration have been issued.
Creditors of the LLC are notified that all claims against Just A Mere Road LLC, Albert Blommaert Jr. or the Albert Blommaert Jr. Trust under agreement dated November 15, 2019, as amended and restated, will be forever barred unless presented to Christie Krout, Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the LLC will thereafter be dissolved and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Christie Krout
13636 105th Place
Dyer, Indiana 46311
(708) 528-8504
March 11, 2026
Christie Krout, Trustee

Notice to Creditors
Estate of Ellen L. Van Raalte Frieswyk Date of Birth: October 28, 1944
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ellen L. Van Raalte Frieswyk, of 280 40th Street, Allegan County, Michigan died February 13, 2026.
Creditors of Ellen L. Van Raalte Frieswyk are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to: Krista Smith, Trustee of the Ellen L. Van Raalte Protection Trust, u/a/d December 7, 2010, care of Carrier Law, P.C., 4965 East Beltline Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
April 1, 2026
David L. Carrier P41531
4965 East Beltline Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 361-8400
Krista Smith
1115 Teal Trail
Bowling Green, OH 43402

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: EMILIO LUIS CALDERON has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 AT 9:00 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: EMILIO LUIS CALDERON to EMILIO LUIS MOSIER

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 26-66052-DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of DAVID G. WATERS, deceased Date of Birth:*08/07/1943
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, DAVID G. WATERS, died 10/12/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dawn R. Eigsti-Waters, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
April 1, 2026
Gary E. Tibble P43886
5144 Gull Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
269-383-6000
Dawn R. Eigsti-Waters
1049 106th Ave.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-364-7871

Allegan
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
Trust: The Christine Giles Trust, under agreement dated September 17, 2021
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Christine Giles, who lived at 6528 120th Ave., Fennville, MI 49408 Michigan, died 03/01/2026
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustee, Lester H. Giles , within 4 months from the date of publication of this notice.
03/30/2026
Blaque W. Hough P-47697
300 South State St., Ste. 11
Zeeland, MI 49464 (616) 212-9336
Lester H. Giles
2482 49th Street
Fennville, MI 49408 (269) 512-1009

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 07, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Timothy A. Stevens and Tari Stevens, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Household Finance Corporation III Date of mortgage: November 26, 2002 Recorded on January 3, 2003, Liber 2366, on Page 209, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on July 6, 2011, Liber 3528, on Page 660, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-A Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty and 37/100 Dollars ($201,650.37) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: THE NORTH 124.84 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 SECTION 17, TOWN 4 NORTH RANGE 12 WEST. Commonly known as 4245 21st St, Dorr, MI 49323 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-A Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1590154
(04-09)(04-30)

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
COUNTY LOCAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Sealed bids will be received by the Allegan County Road Commission at their office at 1308 Lincoln Road (M-89), Allegan, Michigan until 11:00 A.M., Local Time, April 15, 2026, and, at such time, be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

PROJECT NO. 400194 – 0.35 miles of roadway reconstruction including clearing, grade establishment, sand subbase, aggregate base, culvert replacements, hot mix asphalt paving, and restoration on 61st Street from 138th Avenue to 0.35 miles north in Laketown Township, Allegan County.

Complete specifications, plans, and bid forms are available at the Road Commission office and the Road Commission website www.alleganroads.org under the Projects link. When accessing plans from the website, please send an email to jkernodle@alleganroads.org to be added to the plan holders list.

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Road Commission and sealed in envelopes with the name and address of the bidder, and the item bid upon clearly marked thereon.

A bid deposit of at least 5% of the bid amount will be required for this item. The bid deposit may be in the form of certified check, cashier's check or bid bond.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the bid that is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Allegan.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Larry Brown, Chairman
Rick Cain, Vice-Chairman
Harold Hamlin, Member

Public Notice

In a Special Overisel Township Planning Commission Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 7:30 PM in the Overisel Township Hall the Commission will hear the following request. Jacob Smith of 4942 146th Ave. Holland, MI is requesting a Special use permit to construct residential dwelling on property currently zoned agricultural.

The parcel in question can be identified as parcel 03-18-007-003-00 Overisel Township, Allegan County MI. All Interested parties are invited to attend this meeting. Handicap provisions will be provided by calling the Township Office in advance at 269-751-7030.

Dave Arendsen, Secretary
Overisel Township Planning Commission

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
COUNTY LOCAL HOT MIX ASPHALT PAVING

Sealed bids will be received by the Allegan County Road Commission at their office at 1308 Lincoln Road (M89), Allegan, Michigan until 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, April 22, 2026, and at such time be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

I. HOT MIX ASPHALT PAVEMENT
Hot Mix Asphalt paving (Michigan Department of Transportation Specification: 4EL & 5EL) in Otsego. Complete specifications and bid forms are available at the Road Commission office and the Road Commission website www.alleganroads.org under the Projects link.

Bidders must be prequalified by the Michigan Department of Transportation to perform Paving Construction.

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Road Commission and sealed in envelopes with the name and address of the bidder, and the item bid upon clearly marked thereon.

BID DEPOSIT of at least 5% of the bid amount will be required for each project bid upon. A single bid check may be submitted to cover all projects' bids. The Bid Deposit may be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the bid that is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Allegan.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Larry Brown, Chairman
Rick Cain, Vice-Chairman
Harold Hamlin, Member

PUBLIC NOTICE
GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The Gun Plain Charter Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 192 on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the regular Township Board meeting. The proposed ordinance adopted a Moratorium on considering applications for data centers.

Ordinance No. 192 Moratorium, would put a temporary moratorium in effect until August 31, 2026 or until the effective date of any amended or new Township Ordinance or regulations addressing data centers are effective, whichever date occurs first.

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review at the Township Hall during regular business hours or online at www.gunplain.org.

Effective date

This ordinance takes effect upon publication after adoption pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
381 8th Street, P.O. Box 146
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone 269-685-9471/Fax 269-685-5169

MICHAEL VANDENBERG, SUPERVISOR
GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Allegan County Road Commission at their office at 1308 Lincoln Road (M-89), Allegan, Michigan until 11:00 A.M, Wednesday, April 22, 2026, and at such time be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

PICKUP TRUCKS

Complete specifications and bid forms are available at the Road Commission office and the Road Commission website, www.alleganroads.org under the projects link.

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Road Commission and sealed in envelopes with the name and address of the bidder, and the item bid upon clearly marked thereon.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the bid that is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Allegan.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Larry Brown, Chairman
Rick Cain, Vice Chairman
Harold Hamlin, Commissioner

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc.

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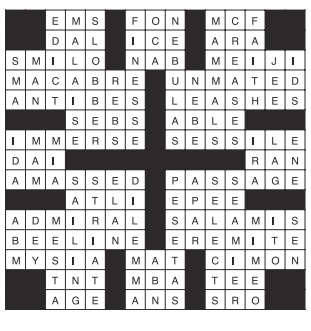

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RELIGION SECTION

Much to my surprise, one day I became a full-fledged member of The Olds. I just slipped up behind me and tapped me on the shoulder. Not just a retiree, eligible for Social Security, with wrinkles and grey hair that dispel any question about getting a senior citizen discount. I am now one of The Olds. To be sure, it comes with some benefits, but it can be a challenge.

Many of us don't feel like we are seen by others. One time I was trying to find a store clerk, and someone wanted to know if I was lost. Another time and place, instead of helping, the clerk asked if I was waiting for a grandchild in the toy department. Another time a well-meaning youngster started a sentence with, "Well, at your age."

We go to more funerals that weddings now. Going out for dinner might mean the free samples at a big box store, or a ham bun at a funeral reception. Driving at night? Not a chance. You hear about a shortage of people willing to work, but potential employers would prefer that The Olds like us don't interfere. The list goes on.

We can get irritated or make fun about it. A few lucky souls are making money by being 'senior influencers' but at the end of the day, there is that cold, miserable feeling of having lost our validation.

John 5:44 makes it clear we might be looking for validation of a legitimate right be here from the wrong places. Jesus asks why we are trying to get the approval from others when it is God's approval we really need. In fact, it is the only approval we need. Someone else can say wonderful things about us or give us compliments, but perhaps we wonder if they are just being nice or trying to humor us.

That is why I believe God's validation is all we need. I firmly believe that if God says we are good enough to take on a challenge, then we are good enough. It is time to pull the shoulders back, stand up straight, and remind ourselves, "I'm qualified and I am competent," and then move forward.

If anything, we can take quiet comfort that we are finally old enough to not have to care about what others think of us. Just move forward, doing God's will, enjoying the abundant life; always be the person who leaves others wondering, "What is he/she up to now?"

That is how we honor God and rejoice in this day that God has given us.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

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Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

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